















# HISTORY

OF THE

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

INTENDED AS

### A READING-BOOK

FOR

### SCHOOLS.

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BY SAMUEL WILLIAMS, LL. D.

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NEW-HAVEN:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. STORER, JUN.

.....  
1824.

*Northern District of New-York, to wit.*



BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the eighteenth day of April, in the forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1823, WILLIAM STORER, Junior, of the said district, has deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit: "A History of the American Revolution: Intended "as a Reading-Book for Schools. By Samuel Williams, LL. D." In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also, to the act entitled "An act supplementary to an act entitled 'An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned,' and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

RICHARD R. LANSING, *Clerk*  
*of the Northern District of New-York.*

## PREFACE.



TO render more perfect our knowledge of any particular country or government, together with the political principles by which they are actuated in the management of their national affairs, it is highly important that we should make ourselves acquainted with their origin, and the causes which induced their establishment as an independent nation. And when this knowledge relates to our own country, it becomes doubly important and interesting.

Strange as it may seem, there has never been introduced into our schools, a short, comprehensive, and cheap history of the American revolution and war—an event which gave birth to an independent nation, and filled the gazing world with astonishment—an event which taught the sovereigns of Europe that their system of enslaving the world was ill founded and chimerical ; that there was sufficient energy, in at least *a part* of the human race, to assert their rights, and, thus asserted, to maintain them—an event which ought to be held in sacred remembrance by the citizens of this great republic, and handed down, from one generation to another, to the latest posterity.

The more common accounts of this great and important occurrence, which have been published, are attached to large and expensive volumes, which cannot

be owned but by a small portion of the community, who are favored with the possession of wealth. These volumes are usually devoted to general subjects, among which, the American revolution is occasionally crowded in; and, from the magnitude of the volume, it is not unfrequently suffered to remain unmolested in the library, even by those who have been able to purchase.

And why has the American public been suffered to remain so long without a work of this kind, comprised in such a form that it may be in the possession of every family? This question cannot be answered, without giving the blush to every enlightened American. Shall it be said, that we have not sufficient respect for the exertions of our ancestors, who gloriously offered their blood a willing sacrifice on the altar of Freedom, that we their sons might enjoy the blessings of liberty and independence? Humiliating as is such a reflection, yet (from the silence and obscurity in which this subject has been suffered to remain) it appears but too justly to attach itself to us as a people.

That the rising generation be made acquainted with the leading events which produced our separation from the crown of Great Britain, and our establishment as an independent nation, is an object of the utmost importance. The same causes which impelled our forefathers to declare to the world, that "these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states," still continue to urge the necessity of instilling into the minds of our youth the principles of republicanism—a love of liberty—and a hatred and abhorrence of tyranny.

Next to the Bible, the History of the American Revolution is most deservedly entitled to the attention and reverence of the youth of our country. Here they may be made acquainted with the impositions and oppression to which their ancestors were subject, while these United States were colonies dependant on the British crown. Here may be found a detail of the causes which led to the publication of that sacred instrument, the Declaration of American Independence. Here is preserved and laid down, a narrative of the privations and hardships which our fathers, the soldiers of the revolution, suffered and endured, to maintain and establish that independence.

While in our schools and seminaries of learning, the rising generation are taught those branches of literature which are to fit them for the various duties to be performed under the government, either as officers or private citizens, a history of the origin and principles of that government should not be neglected. A work of this kind has long been wanted in our common schools—and to supply this defect, the present volume is intended. It was written as early as the year 1795; but was never before published, except in the monthly numbers of a periodical work of that day. From its early date, and the acknowledged correctness of Dr. WILLIAMS as a historian, it may be considered as a true and faithful narrative.

The publisher has spared no pains to make a proper division of the subject into chapters and sections, the better to fit it for the purpose for which it is intended—a reading-book for our common schools. We have

also added, at the close of the volume, several orders and addresses of Gen. WASHINGTON, and other documents published at the conclusion of the war ; together with the Constitution of the United States, and all the amendments which have been made to that instrument since its first adoption. These additions, it is hoped, will contribute to render the work still more useful and interesting.

THE PUBLISHER

*New-Haven, March, 1824.*



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**HISTORY**  
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**CHAPTER I.**

**Introduction.**—State of the colonies after the war of 1763.—Their opinion of themselves.—Their industry and enterprize.—Good government of themselves.—Speculation on the cause of the war.—Obnoxious bills passed by Parliament.—Agreement not to import British goods.

**I**T has hitherto been remarked, that the beginning of every political establishment is contemptible. Some few banditti, taking refuge among the marshes on the banks of the Tiber, laid the foundation of the Roman empire : and it may, perhaps, be said, that the turbulence of some North-Americans, and the blunders of some British statesmen, gave birth to this new republic, which, at some future period, bids fair to surpass even the splendor of Rome.

The state of the British colonies at the conclusion of the war in 1763, was such as attracted the attention of all the politicians in Europe. Their flourishing condition at that period was remarkable and striking : their trade had prospered in the midst of all the difficulties and distresses of a war in which they were so nearly and so immediately concerned. Their population continued on the increase, notwithstanding the ravages and depredations that had been so fiercely carried on by the French, and the native Indians in their alliance. They abounded with spirited and active individuals of all de-

nominations. They were flushed with the uncommon prosperity that had attended them, in their commercial affairs and military transactions. Hence they were ready for all kinds of undertakings, and saw no limits to their hopes and expectations.

As they entertained the highest opinion of their value and importance, and of the immense benefit that Britain derived from its connection with them, their notions were adequately high in their own favor. They deemed themselves, not without reason, entitled to every kindness and indulgence which the mother country could bestow.

Although their pretensions did not amount to a perfect equality of advantages and privileges in matters of commerce, yet in those of government they thought themselves fully competent to the task of conducting their domestic concerns, with little or no interference from abroad. Though willing to admit the supremacy of Great Britain, they viewed it with a suspicious eye, and with a marked desire to restrain it within its strict constitutional boundaries.

Their improvements in all the necessary and useful arts, did honor to their industry and ingenuity. Though they did not live in the luxury of Europe, they had all the solid and substantial enjoyments of life, and were not unacquainted with many of its elegancies and refinements.

A circumstance much to their praise, is, that, notwithstanding their peculiar addiction to those occupations of which lucre is the sole object, they were duly attentive to cultivate the field of learning; and they have, ever since their foundation, been particularly careful to provide for the education of the rising progeny.

Their vast augmentation of internal trade and external commerce, was not merely owing to their position and facility of communication with other parts; it arose also from their natural turn and temper, full of schemes and projects; ever aiming at new discoveries, and con-



tinually employed in the search of means of improving their condition.

Their enterprize carried them into every quarter from whence profit could be derived. There was scarcely any port of the American hemisphere, to which they had not extended their navigation. They were continually exploring new sources of trade, and were found in every spot where business could be transacted.

To this extensive and incessant application to commerce, they added an equal vigilance in the administration of their affairs at home. Whatever could conduce to the amelioration of the soil they possessed, to the progress of agriculture, or to the improvement of their domestic circumstances, was attended to with so much labor and care, that it may be strictly said, that nature had given them nothing of which they did not make the most.

In the midst of this solicitude and toil in matters of business, the affairs of government were conducted with steadiness, prudence, and lenity, seldom experienced, and never exceeded, in the best regulated countries of Europe.

Such was the situation of the British colonies in general throughout North-America, and of the New-England provinces in particular, when the pacification above mentioned opened one of the most remarkable scenes that ever commanded the attention of the world.

In treating of the American revolution, it has become a fashion with the English writers, to ascribe that event to the successful intrigues of the French government. Instead of contemplating it with the characteristic philosophy of their country, as the result of a contest between the desire of power, and the abhorrence of oppression, they have sought the origin of the evil in any source rather than their own misconduct; and have endeavored, at once, to hush the reproaches of their political conscience, and to gratify the cravings of their national animosity, in wild conjectures of a scheme formed by their neighbors to divide the British empire,

and in declamatory invectives against the Gallic faith and honor.

Thus, it has been repeatedly asserted, that the French having long viewed, with equal envy and apprehension, the flourishing state of the colonies which Britain had founded in America, began immediately after the peace of Paris, to carry into execution their project for separating those colonies from the mother country. Secret emissaries, it is said, were employed in spreading dissatisfaction among the colonists; and the effects produced by these machinating spirits are described to have been a rapid diminution of that peculiar warmth of attachment, which the inhabitants of North-America had hitherto demonstrated for the mother country; the excitement of a jealousy which led them to view her rather in the light of a sovereign than of a parent; and the introduction of a hostile policy, which taught them to examine, with a scrupulous nicety, the nature of those ties that rendered them parts of her empire.

That such emissaries were ever employed, is a fact unsupported by any document which the purity of historical truth can admit; and, although the effects here described have certainly appeared, it must be remembered, that their appearance followed, but did not precede, the attempts of Britain upon the rights and liberties of America. By mere artifice and address, to have alienated the affections of the colonists from their mother country, at the close of a war in which their interests and feelings had been interwoven with more than usual strength and energy, was a task of infinite difficulty, not surely to be accomplished in the short period between the declaration of peace in 1761, and the promulgation of the first obnoxious acts of the British parliament in 1764.

But, if we trace these effects to another cause—to a love of liberty, and a quick sense of injury, their appearance will be natural and just, consistent with the American character, and corresponding with the conduct which was displayed in all the vicissitudes that attended the revolt.

In March, 1764, a bill was passed, by which heavy duties were laid on goods imported by the colonists from such West India islands as did not belong to Great Britain ; at the same time that these duties were to be paid into the exchequer in specie : and in the same session another bill was framed, to restrain the currency of paper money in the colonies themselves. Not only the principle of taxation, but the mode of collection, was considered as an unconstitutional and oppressive innovation ; for the penalties incurred by an infraction of the acts of parliament, might be recovered in the courts of admiralty, before a single judge, (whose salary was the fruit of the forfeitures he decreed,) without trial by jury, or any of the other benefits of common law jurisprudence.

These acts, coming so close to each other, threw the whole continent into the utmost ferment. Vehement remonstrances were made to the ministry, and every argument made use of that reason or ingenuity could suggest, but to no purpose. Their reasoning, however, convinced a great number of people in Britain ; and thus the American cause came to be considered as the cause of liberty.

The Americans, finding all argumentation vain, at last united in an agreement to import no more of the manufactures of Great Britain, but to encourage, to the utmost of their power, every thing of that kind among themselves. Thus the British manufacturers also became a party against the ministry, and did not fail to express their resentment in the strongest terms ; but the ministry were not to be so easily daunted, and therefore proceeded to the last step of their intended plan, which was to lay on stamp duties throughout the continent. Previous to this, indeed, several regulations were passed in favor of the commerce of the colonies ; but they had now imbibed such unfavorable sentiments of the British ministry, that they paid very little regard to any thing pretended to be done in their favor ; or, if these acts made any favorable impression, it was quickly obliterated by the news of the stamp act.

The reason given for this act, so exceedingly obnox-

ious, was, that a sum might be raised sufficient for the defence of the colonies against a foreign enemy; but this pretence was so far from giving any satisfaction to the Americans, that it excited their indignation to the utmost degree. They not only asserted that they were abundantly able to defend themselves against any foreign enemy, but denied that the British parliament had any right to tax them at all.

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## CHAPTER II.

Stamp act.—Ferment among the Americans.—Stamp act repealed.—Opinion of Dr. Franklin.—Spirit of independence manifested.—Duty on tea, &c.—Disturbances increase.—Assembly of Massachusetts prorogued.

IT would be superfluous to enter into any arguments used by the contending parties on this important occasion. It was evident that the matter was not to be decided by argument, but by force of arms; and the British ministry, too confident of the authority and power of that country, determined to carry on matters with a high hand, to terrify the colonies into an implicit subjection, or, if that would not do, to compel them to it by force. The stamp act, after a violent opposition in parliament, was passed; and its reception in America was such as might have been expected.

The news, and the act itself, arrived first at Boston, where the bells were muffled and rung a funeral peal. The act was first hawked about the streets with a death's head affixed to it, and styled "The folly of England, and the ruin of America;" and afterwards publicly burnt by the enraged populace. The stamps themselves were seized and destroyed, unless brought by men of war, or kept in fortified places; those who were to receive the stamp duties were compelled to resign their offices; and such of the Americans as sided with government on this occasion, had their houses plundered and burnt.

Though these outrages were committed by the low-

est of the multitude, they were first connived at by those of superior rank, and the principles on which they were founded afterwards openly patronized by them; and the doctrine became general and openly avowed, that Britain had no right whatever to tax the colonies without their own consent.

The ministry now found it absolutely necessary either to yield to the Americans, by repealing the obnoxious statutes, or to enforce them by arms. The ferment had diffused itself universally throughout the colonies. Virginia first, and afterwards all the rest of the provinces, declared against the right of Britain to lay taxes in America; and that every attempt to vest others with this power, besides the king, or the governor of the province and his general assembly, was illegal, unconstitutional and unjust.

Non-importation agreements were every where entered into, and it was even resolved to prevent the sale of any more British goods after the present year. American manufactures, though dearer, as well as of an inferior quality to the British, were universally preferred. An association was entered into against the eating of lamb, in order to promote the growth of wool; and the ladies with cheerfulness agreed to renounce the use of every species of ornament manufactured in Britain.

Such a general and alarming confederacy determined the ministry to repeal some of the most obnoxious statutes; and to this they were the more inclined by a petition from the first American congress, held at New-York, in October, 1765.

The stamp act was therefore repealed, to the universal joy of the Americans, and indeed to the general satisfaction of the English, whose manufactures had begun to suffer very severely in consequence of the American association against them.

The disputes on the subject, however, were by no means silenced without doors, but each party continued to argue the case as violently as before. The celebrated Dr. Benjamin Franklin was on this occa-

sion examined before the British house of commons—and his opinion was in substance as follows :

“That the tax in question was impracticable and ruinous. The very attempt had so far alienated the affections of the colonies, that they behaved in a less friendly manner towards the natives of England than before ; considering the whole nation as conspiring against their liberty, and the parliament as willing rather to oppress than to support and assist them. America, in fact, did not stand in any need of British manufactures, having already begun to construct such as might be deemed absolutely necessary, and that with such success as left no doubt of their soon arriving at perfection.

“The elegancies of dress had already been renounced for manufactures of the American kind, though much inferior ; and the bulk of the people, consisting of farmers, were such as could in no way be affected by the want of British commodities, having every necessary within themselves. Materials of all kinds were to be had in plenty ;—the wool was fine, flax grew in great abundance, and iron was every where to be met with.”

Dr. Franklin also insisted, “that the Americans had been greatly misrepresented ; that they had been traduced as void of gratitude and affection to the parent state, than which nothing could be more contrary to truth. In the war of 1755 they had, at their own expense, raised an army of 25,000 men ; and in that of 1739, they assisted the British expeditions against South-America, with several thousand men, and had made many brave exertions against the French in North-America.

“It was said that the war of 1755 had been undertaken in defence of the colonies ; but the truth was, that it originated from a contest about the boundary line between Canada and Nova-Scotia, and in defence of the right of the English to trade on the Ohio.

“The Americans, however, would still continue to act with their usual fidelity ; and were any war to

break out, in which they had no interest, they would show themselves as ready as ever to assist the parent state to the utmost of their power; and they would never fail to manifest their readiness in contributing to the emergencies of government, when called upon in a regular and constitutional manner."

The ministry were conscious that in repealing this obnoxious act, they yielded to the Americans; and therefore, to support, as they thought, the dignity of Great-Britain, it was judged proper to publish a declaratory bill, in which was set forth the authority of the mother country over her colonies, and her power to bind them by laws and statutes, *in all cases whatsoever*.

This much diminished the joy with which the repeal of the stamp act was received in America. It was considered as establishing the ground upon which any claim might be enforced equally prejudicial with the stamp act; and a spirit of jealousy pervaded the whole continent, in so much that a strong party was formed, watchful on every occasion to guard against any arbitrary encroachments of the British power.

It was not long before an occasion offered, in which the Americans manifested a spirit of absolute independence, virtually declaring that instead of being bound by the British legislature in all cases, they would not be controlled by it in the most trivial affairs. This was in consequence of an act passed by the Rockingham ministry, providing the British troops stationed in different parts of the colonies with such accommodations as were necessary for them.

The assembly of New-York, however, took upon them to alter the mode of execution prescribed by the act of parliament, and to substitute one of their own. This gave very great offence to the new ministry, and rendered them (though composed of those who had been active against the stamp bill) less favorable to the colonies than they would, in all probability, otherwise have been.

An unlucky circumstance at this time occurred, which

threw every thing once more into confusion. One of the new ministry, Mr. Charles Townsend, having declared that he could find a way of taxing the Americans without giving them offence, was called upon to propose his plan. This was by imposing a duty upon tea, paper, paints and glass, imported to America.

The conduct of the New-York assembly respecting the troops, and that of Boston, which had proceeded in a similar manner, caused this bill to meet with less opposition than it otherwise might have done.

As a punishment to the refractory assemblies, the legislative power was taken from that of New-York, until they should fully comply with the terms of the act. That of Boston at last submitted with reluctance. The bill for the new taxes was quickly passed, and sent to America in 1768.

A ferment, much greater than that occasioned by the stamp act, now took place throughout the continent. The populace renewed their outrages, and those of superior station entered into regular combinations against it. Circular letters were sent from Massachusetts to all her sister colonies, setting forth the injustice and impropriety of the acts of the British parliament.

Meetings were held in all the principal towns, in which it was proposed to lessen the consumption of foreign manufactures, by giving proper encouragement to their own. Continual disputes ensued betwixt the governors and general assemblies of their provinces, which were much heightened by a letter from Lord Shelburn to Governor Barnard of Massachusetts, containing complaints of the people he governed.

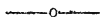
The assembly, exasperated to the highest degree, charged their governor with having misrepresented them to the court of Britain, requiring him to produce copies of the letters he had sent; and, on his refusal, wrote letters to the English ministry, accusing him of misrepresentation and partiality, complaining at the same time, most grievously, of the proceedings of



parliament, as utterly subversive of the liberties of America, and the rights of British subjects.

The governor, at a loss how to defend himself, prorogued the assembly ; and, in his speech on the occasion, gave a loose to his resentment, accusing the members of ambitious designs, incompatible with those of dutiful and loyal subjects.

To counteract the effect of the circular letter of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, Lord Hillsborough, secretary to the American department, addressed the governors of the several colonies, reprobating the circular as full of misrepresentation, and tending to excite a rebellion against the authority of the parent state.



### CHAPTER III.

Turmoil at Boston.—Dissolution of the assembly.—People form a convention.—Arrival of troops from England.—Parliament address the King.—Affray between the soldiers and Bostonians.—Repeal of duties.—New assembly.—Disavowal of the supremacy of parliament.

**MATTERS** now hastened to a crisis. The governor had been ordered to proceed with vigor, and by no means to show any disposition to yield to the people as formerly. In particular, they were required to rescind that resolution by which they had written the circular letter above mentioned ; and, in case of a refusal, it was told them that they would be dissolved. As this letter had been framed by the resolutions of a former house, they desired, after a week's consultation, that a recess might be granted, to consult with their constituents ; but this being refused, they came to a determination, 32 against 17, to adhere to the resolution which produced the circular letter.

At the same time, another letter was sent to Lord Hillsborough, and a message to the governor, in justification of their proceedings. In both, they expressed themselves with such freedom as was by no means cal-

culated to accord with the sentiments of those in power. They insisted that they had a right to communicate their sentiments to their fellow subjects, upon matters of such importance ; complained of the requisition to rescind the circular letter as unconstitutional and unjust ; and particularly insisted, that they were represented as harboring seditious designs, when they were doing nothing but what was lawful and right.

At the same time, they condemned the late acts of parliament, as highly oppressive, and subversive of liberty. The whole was concluded by a list of accusations against their governor, representing him as unfit to continue in his station, and petitioning the king his removal from it.

These proceedings were followed by a violent tumult at Boston. A vessel belonging to a capital trader had been seized, in consequence of his having neglected some of the new regulations ; and being taken under the protection of a man of war at that time lying in the harbor, the populace attacked the houses of the commissioners of excise, broke their windows, destroyed the collector's boats, and obliged the custom-house officers to take refuge in Castle William, situated at the entrance of the harbor.

The governor now took the last step in his power, to put a stop to the violent proceedings of the assembly, by dissolving it entirely ; but this was of little moment. Their behavior had been highly approved by the other colonies, who had written letters to them, expressive of their approbation. After the dissolution of the assembly, frequent meetings of the people were held in Boston, which ended in a remonstrance to the governor, to the same purpose as some of the former ; but concluding with a request, that he would take it upon him to order the king's ships out of the harbor.

While the disposition of the Bostonians was thus going on from bad to worse, news arrived, that the agent for the colony had not been allowed to deliver their petition to the king ; it having been objected, that the assembly without the governor was not sufficient author-

ity. This did not contribute to allay the ferment ; and it was further augmented by the news that a number of troops had been ordered to repair to Boston, to keep the inhabitants in awe.

A dreadful alarm now took place. The people called on the governor to convene a general assembly, in order to quiet their fears of the military ; who, they said, were to be assembled to overthrow their liberties, and force their obedience to laws to which they were entirely averse. The governor replied, that it was no longer in his power to call an assembly ; having, in his last instructions from England, been required to wait the king's orders, the matter being then under consideration at home.

Being thus refused, the people took upon themselves the formation of an assembly, which they called a *convention*. The proceedings and resolutions of this body naturally partook of the temper and disposition of the late assembly ; but they went a step farther, and having voted " that there is apprehension in the minds of many of an approaching rupture with France," requested the inhabitants to put themselves in a posture of defence against any sudden attack of an enemy ; and circular letters were sent to all the towns in the province, acquainting them with the resolutions that had been taken in the capital, and exhorting them to proceed in the same manner. The town of Hatfield alone refused its concurrence.

The convention, however, thought proper to assure the governor of their pacific intentions, and renewed their request that an assembly might be called ; but, being refused any audience, and threatened with being treated as rebels, they at last thought proper to dissolve of themselves, and sent over to Britain a circumstantial account of their proceedings, with the reason of their having assembled in the manner already mentioned.

The expected troops arrived on the very day on which the convention broke up, and had some houses in the town fitted up for their reception. Their arrival had a considerable influence on the people, and for-

some time seemed to put a stop to the disturbances; but the seeds of discord had now taken such deep root, that it was impossible to quench the flame. The late outrageous behavior in Boston had given the greatest offence in England; and, notwithstanding all the efforts of opposition, an address from both houses of parliament was presented to the king; in which the behavior of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay was set forth in the most ample manner, and the most vigorous measures recommended for reducing them to obedience.

The Americans, however, continued steadfast in the ideas they had adopted. Though the troops had for some time quieted the disturbances, yet the calm continued no longer than they appeared respectable on account of their number; but as soon as this was diminished by the departure of a large detachment, the remainder were treated with contempt, and it was even resolved to expel them altogether. The country people took up arms for this purpose, and were to have assisted their friends in Boston; but before the plot could be put in execution, an event happened which put an end to every idea of reconciliation between the contending parties.

On the 5th of March, 1770, a scuffle happened between the soldiers and a party of the town's people. The inhabitants poured in from all quarters to the assistance of their fellow citizens; a violent tumult ensued, during which the military fired upon the mob, killing and wounding several of them. The whole province now rose in arms, and the soldiers were obliged to retire to Castle William, to prevent their being cut in pieces. Let it be remembered, however, to the praise of American virtue, that, on the trial, notwithstanding popular prejudice and apprehension, the captain and six of the men were acquitted, two men only being found guilty of manslaughter.

In other respects, the determinations of the Americans were continued, if possible, more firm than ever, until at last, government determining to act with vigor, and at the same time to behave with as much conde-

scension as possible, without abandoning their principles, repealed all the duties lately laid on, that of tea alone excepted. This was left on purpose to maintain the dignity of the crown of Britain ; and it was thought that it could not be productive of any discontent in America, as being an affair of very little moment, the produce of which was not expected to exceed 16,000*l*. The opposition, however, were strenuous in their endeavors to get this tax likewise abrogated ; insisting, that the Americans would consider it only as an inlet to others ; and that the repeal of all the rest, without this, would answer no good purpose. The event showed that their opinion was well founded.

The Americans opposed the tea tax with the same violence they had done all the rest ; and at last, on the news that salaries had been settled on the justices of the superior court of Boston, the governor was addressed on the subject ; the measure was condemned in the strongest terms ; and a committee, selected out of the several districts of the colony, appointed to enquire into it.

The new assembly proceeded in the most formal manner to disavow the supremacy of the British legislature ; and accused the parliament of Britain of having violated the natural rights of the Americans in a number of instances. Copies of the transactions of this assembly were transmitted to every town in Massachusetts, exhorting the inhabitants to rouse themselves, and exert every nerve in opposition to the iron hand of oppression, which was daily tearing the choicest fruits from the fair tree of liberty.

The disturbances were also greatly heightened, by an accidental discovery that Mr. Hutchinson, governor of Massachusetts Bay, had written several confidential letters to people in power in England, complaining of the behavior of the province, recommending vigorous measures against them, and, among other things, asserting, that "there must be an abridgement of what is called British liberty."

Letters of this kind had fallen into the hands of the

agent for the colony at London. They were immediately transmitted to Boston, where the assembly was sitting, by whom they were laid before the governor, who was thus reduced to a very mortifying situation. Losing every idea of respect for him as their governor, they instantly dispatched a petition to the king, requesting him to remove the governor and deputy governor from their places; but to this they not only received no favorable answer, but the petition itself was declared groundless and scandalous.



## CHAPTER IV.

Destruction of tea in Boston harbor.—The king recommends vigorous measures for the subjection of the colonies.—Port bill.—Canada bill.

**A**FFAIRS were now ripe for the utmost extremities on the part of the Americans—and they were brought on in the following manner. Though the colonies had entered into a non-importation agreement against tea, as well as all other commodities from Britain, it had nevertheless found its way into America, though in smaller quantities than before.

This was sensibly felt by the East-India Company, who had now agreed to pay a large sum annually to government; in recompense for which, and to make up their losses in other respects, they were empowered to export their tea free from any duty payable in Britain; and in consequence of this permission, several ships freighted with the commodity were sent to North-America, where proper agents were appointed to dispose of it.

The Americans now perceiving that the tax was likely to be enforced whether they were willing or not, determined to take every possible method to prevent the tea from being landed, knowing that it would be impossible to hinder the sale, should the commodity be brought on shore.

For this purpose the people assembled in great

numbers, forcing those to whom the tea was consigned to resign their offices, and to promise solemnly never to resume them. Committees were also appointed to examine the accounts of merchants, and make public tests, declaring such as would not take them, enemies to their country.

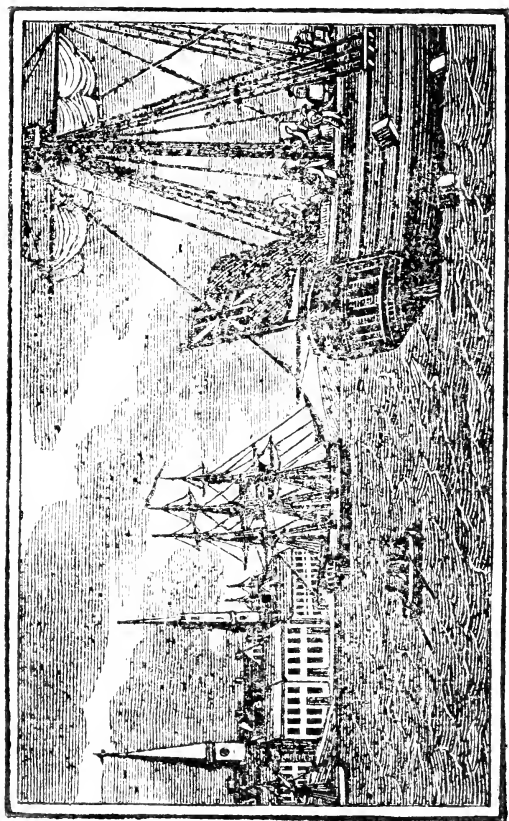
Nor were these proceedings confined to the colony of Massachusetts-Bay. The other provinces entered into the contest with the same warmth, and manifested the same resolution to oppose this invasion of their rights.

In the midst of this confusion, three ships laden with tea arrived at Boston; but so much were the captains alarmed at the disposition which seemed to prevail among the people, that they offered to return to England without landing their cargoes, provided they could obtain the proper discharges from the consignees, the custom-house, and the governor.

The parties concerned, however, though they durst not order the tea to be landed, refused to grant the discharges required. The ships, therefore, would have been obliged to remain in the harbor; but the people, apprehensive that if they remained there the tea would be landed in small quantities, and disposed of in spite of every endeavor to prevent it, resolved to destroy it at once.

This resolution was executed with equal speed and secrecy. The very evening after the above mentioned discharges had been refused, a number of people dressed themselves like Mohawk Indians, and boarding the ships, threw into the sea their whole cargoes, consisting of three hundred and forty-two chests of tea; after which they retired, without making any other disturbance or doing any other damage.

No tea was destroyed in other places, though the same spirit was every where manifested. At Philadelphia the pilots were enjoined not to conduct the vessels up the river; and at New-York, though the governor caused some tea to be landed under the protection of man-of-war, he was obliged to deliver it up



DESTRUCTION OF TEA IN BOSTON HARBOR—NOV. 1773.



to the custody of the people, to prevent its being sold.

The destruction of the tea at Boston, which happened in November, 1773, was the immediate prelude to the disasters attending civil discord. Government, finding themselves every where insulted and despised, resolved to enforce their authority by every possible means ; and as Boston had been the principal scene of the riots and outrages, it was determined to punish that town in an exemplary manner.

Parliament was acquainted, by a message from his majesty, with the undutiful behaviour of the inhabitants of Boston, as well as of all the colonies, and the most vigorous exertions were at the same time recommended to reduce them to obedience. The parliament, in its address, promised a ready compliance ; and, indeed, the Americans seemed now to have lost many of their partizans.

It was proposed to lay a fine on the town of Boston, equal to the value of the tea which had been destroyed, and to shut up its port, by armed vessels, until the refractory spirit of the inhabitants should be subdued ; which it was thought must quickly yield, as a total stop would thus be put to their trade. The bill was strongly opposed, on the same grounds that the other had been ; and it was predicted, that instead of having any tendency to reconcile or subdue the Americans, it would infallably exasperate them beyond any possibility of reconciliation.

A remonstrance against the bill was presented by the agent for the colonies, pointing out the same consequence in the strongest terms, and declaring in the most positive manner that the Americans never would submit to it. But such a degree of infatuation prevailed among all ranks of men in Britain, that they never imagined the Americans would dare openly to resist the authority of the parent state, but would in the end submit implicitly to her commands.

In this confidence a third bill was proposed, providing for the impartial administration of justice in cer-

tain cases. By this bill it was enacted, that should any persons who might be employed in the suppression of riots and tumults in the province of Massachusetts-Bay be indicted for murder, and not be able to obtain a fair trial in the province, they might be sent by the governor to England, or to some other colony, if necessary, to be tried for the supposed crime.

These three bills having been passed so early, the ministry proposed a fourth, relative to the government of Canada, which it was said had not yet been settled on any proper plan. By this bill the extent of that province was greatly enlarged; its affairs were put under the direction of a council, to be appointed by the crown, and removable at its pleasure; and the Roman Catholic clergy were secured in their possessions and perquisites. The council above mentioned were invested with every legislative power except that of taxation.



## CHAPTER V.

Opposition in Massachusetts to Judge Oliver.—Arrival of Gen. Gage.—Assembly removed to Salem.—General congress proposed.—Assembly again dissolved.—Solemn league and covenant of the Bostonians.—Governor's proclamation.

NO sooner were these laws made known in America, than the union of the colonies was cemented almost beyond any possibility of dissolving it.

The assembly of Massachusetts Bay had passed a vote against the judges accepting salaries from the crown; and on the question being put to them, whether they would accept them from the general assembly? four answered in the affirmative; but Peter Oliver, the chief justice, refused. A petition against him, and an accusation, were brought before the governor; but the latter refused the accusation, and declined to interfere in the matter; but as they still insisted for justice against Mr. Oliver, the governor thought proper to put an end to the matter, by dissolving the assembly.

In this situation of affairs, a new alarm was occasioned by the news of the port bill. This had been totally unexpected, and was received with the most extravagant expressions of displeasure among the populace; and while these continued, the new governor, General Gage, arrived from England. He had been chosen to this office on account of his being well acquainted in America, and generally agreeable to the people;—but human wisdom could not now point out a method by which the flame could be allayed.

The first act of his office as governor, was, to remove the assembly to Salem, a town seventeen miles distant, in consequence of the late act. When this was intimated to the assembly, they replied, by requesting him to appoint a day of public humiliation for deprecating the wrath of heaven, but met with a refusal.

When met at Salem, they passed a resolution, declaring the necessity of a general congress, composed of delegates from all the provinces, in order to take the affairs of the colonies at large into consideration; and five gentlemen, remarkable for their opposition to the British measures, were chosen to represent that of Massachusetts Bay.

They then proceeded, with all expedition, to draw up a declaration, containing a detail of the grievances they labored under, and the necessity of exerting themselves against lawless power; they set forth the disregard shown to their petitions, and the attempts of Great Britain to destroy their ancient constitution; and concluded with exhorting the inhabitants of the colony to obstruct, by every method in their power, such evil designs, recommending at the same time, a total renunciation of every thing imported from Great Britain, till a redress of grievances could be procured.

Intelligence of this declaration was carried to the governor on the very day that it was completed; on which he dissolved the assembly. This was followed by an address from the inhabitants of Salem, in favor of those of Boston, and concluding with these remarkable words: “By shutting up the port of Boston, some imagine that the course of trade might be turned hith-

er, and to our benefit ; but nature, in the formation of our harbor, forbids our becoming rivals in commerce with that convenient mart ; and were it otherwise, we must be dead to every idea of justice, and lost to all feelings of humanity, could we indulge one thought to seize on wealth, and raise our fortunes on the ruin of our suffering neighbors."

It had been fondly hoped, by the ministerial party in England, that the advantages which other towns of the colony might derive from the annihilation of the trade of Boston, would make them readily acquiesce in the measure of shutting up that port, and rather rejoice in it than otherwise ; but the words of the above mentioned address seemed to preclude all hope of this kind, and subsequent transactions soon manifested it to be totally vain.

No sooner did intelligence arrive of the remaining bills passed by parliament at the session of 1774, than the cause of Boston became the cause of all the colonies. The port bill had already occasioned violent commotions throughout them all ; it had been reprobated in provincial meetings, and resistance even to the last had been recommended against such oppression.

In Virginia, the first of June, the day on which the port of Boston was to be shut up, was held as a day of humiliation and prayer, and a public intercession in favor of America was enjoined. The style of the prayer enjoined at this time, was "that God would give the people one heart and one mind, firmly to oppose every invasion of the American rights."

The Virginians, however, did not content themselves with merely performing acts of religion ; they passed resolutions recommending in the strongest terms a general congress of all the colonies, being fully persuaded that an attempt to tax any colony in an arbitrary manner, was in reality an attack upon them all, and must ultimately end in the ruin of them all.

The provinces of New-York and Pennsylvania, however, were less sanguine than the rest ; being so

closely connected in the way of trade with Great Britain, the giving it up entirely appeared as a matter of such serious magnitude as not to be hazarded until every other method had failed. But the intelligence of the remaining bills respecting Boston, however, spread a fresh alarm throughout the continent, and confirmed those who had seemed the most wavering.

The alternative of giving up all commercial intercourse with the mother country was again proposed; contributions were raised in every quarter for the relief of the inhabitants of Boston; and they every day received addresses commending them for the patriotic fortitude with which they sustained their calamity.

Nor were the Bostonians wanting in endeavors on their part to promote the general cause. An agreement was framed, which, in imitation of former times, they called a "Solemn League and Covenant." By this the subscribers most religiously bound themselves to break off all communication with Britain, after the expiration of the month of August ensuing, until the obnoxious acts were repealed. At the same time they engaged neither to purchase or use any goods imported after that time, and to renounce all connexion with those who did, or who refused to subscribe to this covenant; threatening to publish the names of the refractory, which at this time was a punishment by no means to be despised.

Agreements of a similar kind were almost instantaneously entered into throughout all America. General Gage indeed attempted to counteract the covenant by a proclamation, declaring it an illegal and traitorous combination, and threatening with the pains of law such as subscribed or countenanced it. But matters were too far gone for his proclamation to have any effect. The people retorted the charge of illegality on his own proclamation, and insisted that the law allowed subjects to meet in order to consider of their grievances, and to associate for the purpose of obtaining relief from oppression.

## CHAPTER VI.

Meeting of the first congress.—Approval of the conduct of Massachusetts.—Letter to Gen. Gage.—Declaration of Rights.—Petition to the king, &c.—Increase of the British forces.—Opposition to the courts.—Thirst for military knowledge.

**P**REPARATIONS were now made for holding the general congress, so often proposed. Philadelphia, as being the most central and considerable town, was pitched upon for the place of its meeting. The delegates of whom it was to be composed were chosen by the representatives of each province, and were in number from two to seven for each colony, though no province was entitled to more than one vote.

The first congress, which met at Philadelphia in the beginning of September, 1774, consisted of fifty-one delegates. The novelty and importance of the meeting of this congress excited universal attention, and their transactions were such as could not but tend to render them respectable.

The first act of congress was an approbation of the conduct of Massachusetts Bay, and an exhortation to continue in the same spirit with which they had begun. Supplies for the suffering inhabitants (whom the operation of port-bill had reduced to great distress) were strongly recommended; and it was declared, that in case of attempts to enforce the obnoxious acts by arms, all America should join to assist the town of Boston; and, should the inhabitants be obliged, during the course of hostilities, to remove farther up the country, the losses they might sustain should be repaired at the public expense.

Congress next addressed a letter to General Gage; in which, having stated the grievances of the people of the people of Massachusetts, they informed him of the fixed and unalterable determination of all the other provinces, to support their brethren, and to oppose the British acts of parliament; that they themselves were appointed to watch over the liberties of Ameri-

ca; and entreated him to desist from military operations, lest such hostilities might be brought on as would frustrate all hopes of reconciliation with the parent state.

Their next step was to publish a declaration of rights. These they summed up in the rights belonging to Englishmen; and particularly insisted, that as their distance rendered it impossible for them to be represented in the British parliament, their provincial assemblies, with a governor appointed by the king, constituted the only legislative power within each province. They would, however, consent to such acts of parliament as were evidently calculated merely for the regulation of commerce, and for securing to the parent state the benefits of the American trade; but would never allow that they could impose any tax on the colonies, for the purpose of revenue, without their consent.

They proceeded to reprobate the intention of each of the new acts of parliament, and insisted on all the rights they had enumerated as being unalienable, and what no power could deprive them of. The Canada act they pointed out as being extremely inimical to the colonies, by whose assistance it had been conquered; and they termed it, "An act for establishing the Roman Catholic religion in Canada, abolishing the equitable system of English laws, and establishing a tyranny there."

They further declared in favor of a non-importation and non-consumption of British goods, until the acts were repealed by which duties were imposed upon tea, coffee, wine, sugar and molasses, imported into America, as well as the Boston port act, and the three others passed at the preceding session of parliament.

The new regulations against the importation and consumption of British commodities were then drawn up with great solemnity; and they concluded with returning the warmest thanks to those members of parliament who had with so much zeal, though without

any success, opposed the obnoxious acts of parliament.

The next proceedings of congress were to frame a petition to the king, an address to the British nation, and another to the colonies ; all of which were in the usual strain of American language at that time, and drawn up in such a masterly manner as ought to have impressed the people of England with a more favorable opinion of the Americans than they could at that time be induced to entertain.

All this time the disposition of the people had corresponded with the warmest wishes of congress. The first of June had been kept as a fast, not only in Virginia, where it was first proposed, but throughout the whole continent. Contributions for the distresses of Boston had been raised in all parts of America, and all ranks of people were peculiarly touched with them. Even those who might have derived advantage from the shutting up of the port, took no opportunity, as has been instanced in the case of Salem.

The inhabitants of Marblehead also showed a noble example of magnanimity in the present case. Though situated in the neighborhood of Boston, and most likely to derive benefit from the distress of that place, they did not attempt to take any advantage, but generously offered the use of their harbor to the Bostonians, as well as their wharves and warehouses, free of all expense.

In the mean time the British forces at Boston were continually increasing, which greatly augmented the general jealousy and disaffection. The country people were ready to rise at a moment's warning ; and the experiment was once made, by giving a false alarm. This was done by spreading a rumor that the communication between the town and country was to be cut off, in order to reduce the former, by famine, to a compliance with the acts of parliament.

On this intelligence the country people assembled in great numbers, and could not be satisfied till they had sent messengers into Boston to enquire into the truth



of the report. These messengers were instructed to inform the town's people, that if they should be so pusillanimous as to make a surrender of their liberties, the province would not think itself bound by such example; and that Britain, by breaking their original charter, had annulled the contract subsisting between them, and left them to act as they might think proper.

In every other respect the people manifested their inflexible determination to adhere to the plan they had so long followed. The new counsellors and judges, who had been appointed by the crown, were obliged to resign their offices, to preserve their lives and property from the fury of the multitude. In some instances the crowd shut up the avenues to the court-houses; and when required to make way for the judges, the reply was, "We own no judges but such as were appointed by the ancient usage and custom of the province."

Every where the people manifested the most ardent desire of learning the art of war; and every individual, who was capable of bearing arms, was now most assiduously engaged in procuring them and learning their exercise.



## CHAPTER VII.

Gen. Gage fortifies Boston neck.—Indignation of the citizens.—General meeting of the inhabitants of the adjacent towns.—Vigorous measures recommended.—Governor calls a general assembly.—Assembly vote themselves into a provincial congress.—Difficulty of providing shelter and clothing for British troops.—Provincials provide money and arms for an army.—Public stores at Newport seized.

**MATTERS** at last proceeded to such a height that General Gage thought proper to fortify the neck of land which joins the town of Boston to the continent. This, though undoubtedly a prudent measure in his situation, was exclaimed against by the Americans in the most vehement manner: but the general, instead

of giving ear to their remonstrances, deprived them of the power of acting against himself, by seizing the provincial powder, ammunition, and military stores, at Cambridge and Charlestown.

This proceeding excited such indignation, that it was with the utmost difficulty the people could be restrained from marching to Boston and attacking the troops. Even in the town itself, the company of cadets that usually attended the governor, dishanded themselves, and returned the standard he had presented to them on his accession to the government. This was occasioned by his having deprived the celebrated patriot, John Hancock, afterwards president of the congress, of his commission as colonel of cadets. A similar instance happened on account of a provincial colonel having accepted a seat in the new council; upon which twenty-four officers of his regiment resigned their commissions in one day.

In the mean time a meeting was held of the principal inhabitants of the towns adjacent to Boston. The purport of this was publicly to renounce all obedience to the late acts of parliament, and to form an engagement to indemnify such as should be prosecuted on that account. By a vote of this meeting, the members of the new council were declared to be violators of the rights of their country; all ranks and degrees were exhorted to learn the use of arms; and the receivers of the public revenue were entreated not to deliver it into the treasury, but to retain it in their own hands until the constitution should be restored, or a provincial congress dispose of it otherwise.

A remonstrance against the fortifications on Boston neck was next prepared; in which it was declared that the people were still unwilling to proceed to any hostile measures, but were, nevertheless, firmly determined not to submit to the acts of parliament they had already so much complained of.

The governor, in order to restore tranquility if possible, called a general assembly; but so many of the council had resigned their seats, that he was induced to

countermand its sitting by proclamation. This last, however, was considered an illegal measure, and the assembly met at Salem; and after waiting one day for the governor, they voted themselves into a provincial congress, of which Mr. John Hancock was chosen president. A committee was appointed, who immediately waited on the governor with a remonstrance concerning the fortifications on Boston neck; but nothing of consequence took place—both parties mutually crinating each other.

Winter was now coming on, and the governor, to avoid quartering the troops upon the inhabitants, proposed to erect barracks for them; but the select-men of Boston caused the workmen to desist. Carpenters were then sent for to New-York, but they were refused; and it was with the utmost difficulty that he could procure winter lodgings for his troops. Nor was the difficulty less in procuring clothes, as the merchants of New-York told him they “never would supply any article for the benefit of men sent as enemies to their country.”

This disposition, known to be almost universal throughout the continent, was in the highest degree satisfactory to congress. Every one saw that the ensuing spring was to be the season for commencing hostilities, and the most indefatigable diligence was used by the colonies, to be well provided against such a formidable enemy.

A list of all the fencible men in each colony was made out, and especially of those who had served in the former war; of whom they had the satisfaction to find, that two thirds were still alive, and fit to bear arms. Magazines of arms were collected, and money was provided for the payment of troops.

The governors in vain attempted to put a stop to these proceedings by proclamations; the fatal period was now arrived, and the more the servants of government attempted to repress the spirit of the Americans, the more violent it appeared.

In the mean time, the inhabitants of Boston were re-

duced to great distress. The British troops, now distinguished by the name of the *enemy*, were absolutely in possession of it ; the inhabitants were kept as prisoners, and might be made accountable for the conduct of the whole colonies ; and various measures were contrived to relieve them from such a disagreeable situation.

Sometimes it was thought expedient to remove the inhabitants altogether ; but this was impracticable, without the governor's consent. It was then proposed to set fire to the town at once, after valuing the houses and indemnifying the proprietors ; but this being found equally impracticable, it was resolved to wait some other opportunity, as the garrison was not very numerous, and, not being supplied with necessaries by the inhabitants, might soon be obliged to leave the place.

The friends of the British government indeed attempted to do something in opposition to the general voice of the people ; but, after a few ineffectual meetings and resolutions, they were utterly silenced, and obliged to yield to the superior number of their adversaries.

Matters had now proceeded so far, that every idea of reconciliation or friendship with Britain was lost. The Americans, therefore, without ceremony, began to seize on the military stores and ammunition belonging to government. This first commenced at Newport, in Rhode-Island, where the inhabitants carried off forty pieces of cannon, appointed for the protection of the place ; and on being asked the reason of this proceeding, they replied, that the people had seized them lest they should be made use of against themselves.

After this, the assembly met, and resolved, that ammunition and warlike stores should be purchased with the public money.

New-Hampshire followed the example of Rhode-Island, and seized a small fort, for the sake of the powder and military stores it contained.

In Pennsylvania, however, a convention was held, which expressed an earnest desire of a reconciliation

with the mother country ; though at the same time, in the strongest manner declaring, that they were resolved to take up arms in defence of their just rights, and defend to the last their opposition to the late acts of parliament ; and the people were exhorted to apply themselves, with the greatest assiduity, to the prosecution of such manufactures as were necessary for their defence and subsistence, such as salt, salt-petre, gun-powder, steel, &c.

This was the universal voice of the colonies, New-York only excepted. The assembly of that province, as yet ignorant of the fate of their last remonstrance, refused to concur with the other colonies in their determination to throw off the British yoke. Their attachment, however, was very faint ; and by the event it appeared, that a perseverance in the measures which the ministry had adopted, was sufficient to unite them to the rest.



## CHAPTER VIII.

Congress at Cambridge.—Minute men organized.—British attempt the seizure of arms at Salem.—Commencement of hostilities at Lexington.—Destruction of military stores at Concord.—British retreat, with considerable loss, to Boston.—Americans collect 20,000 men, and block up the town of Boston.—Arrival of a reinforcement from England.—Battle of Bunker's Hill.—Charlestown burnt.

AS the disturbances had originated in the province of Massachusetts Bay, and there continued all along with the greatest violence, so this was the province where the first hostilities were formally commenced. In the beginning of February, 1775, the provincial congress met at Cambridge ; and as no friends to Britain could now find admittance to that assembly, the only consideration was, how to make proper preparations for war.

Expertness in military discipline was recommended in the strongest manner, and several military institutions enacted, among which that of minute men was one of the most remarkable. These were chosen from the

most active and expert among the militia; and their business was to keep themselves in constant readiness at the call of their officers; from which perpetual vigilance they derived their title.

It was now easily seen, that a slight occasion would bring on hostilities, which could not but be attended with the most violent and certain destruction to the vanquished party; for both were so much exasperated by a long course of reproaches and literary warfare, that they seemed to be filled with the utmost inveteracy against each other.

On the 26th of February, Gen. Gage having been informed that a number of field-pieces had been brought to Salem, dispatched a party to seize them. Their road was obstructed by a river, over which was a draw-bridge. This the people had pulled up, and refused to let down; upon which the soldiers seized a boat to ferry them over; but the people cut out her bottom.

Hostilities would immediately have commenced, had it not been for the interposition of a clergyman, who represented to the military on the one hand, the folly of opposing such numbers, and to the people, on the other, that as the day was far spent, the military could not execute their design, so that they might without any fear leave them the quiet possession of the draw-bridge. This was complied with; and the soldiers, after having remained for some time at the bridge, returned without executing their orders.

The next attempt, however, was attended with more serious consequences. Gen. Gage having been informed that a large quantity of ammunition and military stores had been collected at Concord, about twenty miles from Boston, and where the provincial congress was sitting, sent a detachment under the command of Col. Smith and Maj. Pitcairn to destroy the stores, and, as was reported, to seize Messrs. Hancock and Adams, the leading men of the congress.

They set out before day-break, on the 19th of April, marching with the utmost silence, and securing every one they met on the road, that they might not be dis-

covered. But notwithstanding all their care, the continual ringing of bells and firing of guns as they went along, soon gave them notice that the country was alarmed.

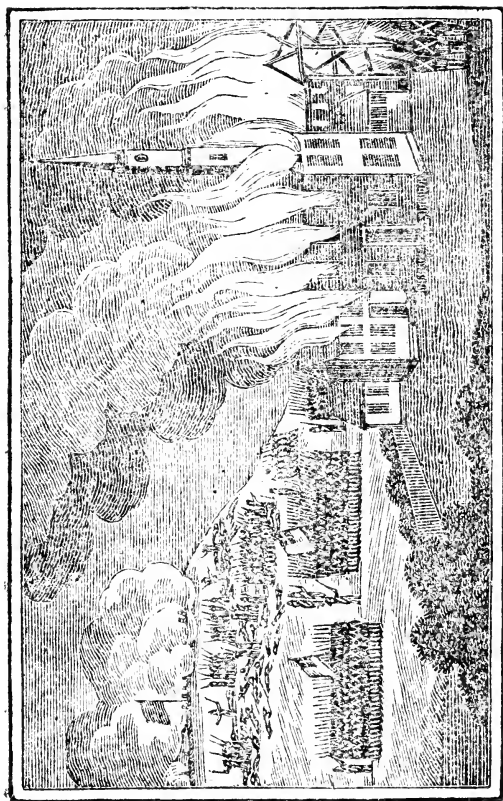
About five in the morning, they had reached Lexington, fifteen miles from Boston, where the militia of the place were exercising. An officer called out to them to disperse ; but, as they still continued in a body, he advanced, discharged his pistol, and ordered his soldiers to fire ; who instantly obeyed, and killed and wounded several of the militia. The detachment then proceeded to Concord, where, having destroyed the stores, they were encountered by the Americans, and a scuffle ensued, in which several fell on both sides.

The purpose of their expedition being thus accomplished, it was necessary for the king's troops to retreat, which they did through a continual fire kept upon them from Concord to Lexington. Here their ammunition was totally expended ; and they would have been unavoidably cut off, had not a considerable reinforcement, commanded by Lord Percy, met them.

The Americans, however, continued their attack with great fury ; and the British would still have been in the utmost danger, had it not been for two field-pieces which Lord Percy had brought with him. By these the impetuosity of the Americans was checked, and the British made good their retreat to Boston with the loss of 250 killed and wounded : that of the Americans was about 60.

By this engagement the spirits of the Americans were so raised, that they meditated nothing less than the total expulsion of the British troops from Boston. An army of 20,000 men was assembled, who formed a line of encampment from Roxbury to Mystic, through a space of about twenty miles ; and here they were soon after joined by a large body of Connecticut troops, under Gen. Putnam, an old officer of great bravery and experience.

By this formidable force, was the town of Boston now kept blocked up. Gen. Gage, however, had so



BATTLE OF BUNKER'S HILL, AND BURNING OF CHARLESTOWN—JUNE 17, 1775.



strongly fortified it, that the Americans, powerful as they were, durst not make an attack ; while, on the other hand, his force was by far too insignificant to meet such an enemy in the field.

But towards the end of May, a considerable reinforcement having arrived, with Generals Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton, he was soon enabled to attempt something of consequence ; and this, the boasts of the provincials, that they were besieging those that had been sent to subdue them, seemed to render in some measure necessary.

Some skirmishes, in the mean time, happened in the islands lying off Boston harbor, in which the Americans had the advantage, and burnt an armed schooner, which her people had been obliged to abandon, after she was left aground by the tide. Nothing decisive, however, took place, till the 17th of June.

In the neighborhood of Charlestown, (a place on the northern shore of the peninsula on which Boston stands,) is a high ground called *Bunker's Hill*, which overlooks and commands the whole town of Boston. In the night of the 16th, the provincials took possession of this place, and worked with such indefatigable diligence, that, to the astonishment of their enemies, they had, before day-light, almost completed a redoubt, with a strong entrenchment, reaching half a mile eastward, as far as the river Mystic. After this, they were obliged to sustain a heavy and incessant fire from the ships and floating batteries with which Charlestown neck was surrounded, as well as the cannon that could reach the place from Boston ; in spite of which, however, they continued their work, and finished it before mid-day.

A considerable body of foot was then landed at the foot of Bunker's Hill, under the command of Generals Howe and Pigot ; the former being appointed to attack the lines, and the latter the redoubt. The Americans, however, having the advantage of the ground, as well as of their entrenchments, poured down such incessant volleys as threatened the whole body with destruction ;

and Gen. Howe was for a little time left almost alone, all his officers being killed or wounded.

The provincials, in the mean time, had taken possession of Charlestown, so that Gen. Pigot was obliged to contend with them in that place, as well as in the redoubt. The consequence was, that he was overmatched, his troops were thrown into disorder, and he would in all probability have been defeated, had not Gen. Clinton advanced to his relief; upon which the attack was renewed with such fury, that the provincials were driven beyond the neck that leads to Charlestown.

In the heat of the engagement, the British troops, in order to deprive the enemy of a cover, set fire to Charlestown, which was totally consumed; and, eventually, the Americans were obliged to retreat over Charlestown neck, which was raked by an incessant fire from the Glasgow man-of-war and several floating batteries. In this engagement the loss on the British side amounted to about one thousand, including nineteen officers killed, and seventy wounded. The American loss, which did not exceed, in killed and wounded, two hundred men, was greatly augmented and severely felt, in the fall of the brave General Warren, a young officer of much promise.

The British troops claimed the victory in this engagement, but it must be allowed it was dearly bought; and the Americans boasted that the real advantages were on their side, as they had so much weakened the enemy that they durst not afterwards venture out of their entrenchments. Considering that this was the first time the provincials had been in actual service, it must be owned that they behaved with great spirit, and by no means merited the appellation of cowards, with which they had been often branded in Britain.

## CHAPTER IX.

**General determination to resist the measures of the British government.—Rejection of Lord North's conciliatory scheme.—Congress resolve to establish an army and paper currency.—Crown-Point and Ticonderoga surprized and taken by Cols. Allen and Eaton.—Articles of confederation drawn up and agreed to in congress.—Canadians resolve to preserve a neutrality.**

**I**N other places, the same determined spirit of resistance appeared on the part of the Americans. Lord North's conciliatory scheme was utterly rejected by the assemblies of the states of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, and afterwards in every other colony.

The commencement of hostilities at Lexington determined the colony of New-York, which had hitherto continued to waver, to unite with the rest ; and as the situation of New-York rendered it unable to resist an attack from the sea, it was resolved, before the arrival of a British fleet, to secure the military stores, send off the women and children, and to set fire to the city if it was still found incapable of defence.

The exportation of provisions was every where prohibited, particularly to the British fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, or to such colonies of America as should adhere to the British interest. Congress resolved on the establishment of an army, and of a large paper-currency in order to support it.

In the northern inland colonies, Colonels Eaton and Ethan Allen, without receiving any orders from Congress, or communicating their design to any body, with a party of only two hundred and fifty men, surprized the forts of Crown-Point, Ticonderoga, and the rest that form a communication betwixt the colonies and Canada. On this occasion two hundred pieces of cannon fell into their hands, besides mortars and a large quantity of military stores, together with two armed vessels, and materials for the construction of others.

After the battle of Bunker's Hill, the provincials

erected fortifications on the heights which commanded Charlestown, and strengthened the rest in such a manner that there was no hope of driving them from thence; at the same time that their activity and boldness astonished the British officers, who had been accustomed to entertain a mean and unjust opinion of their courage.

The troops, thus shut up in Boston, were soon reduced to distress. Their necessities obliged them to attempt the carrying off the American cattle on the islands before Boston, which produced frequent skirmishes; but the provincials, better acquainted with the navigation of these shores, landed on the islands, destroyed and carried off whatever was of any use, burned the light-house at the entrance of the harbour, and took prisoners the workmen sent to repair it, as well as a party of marines who guarded them.

Thus the garrison were reduced to the necessity of sending out armed vessels to make prizes indiscriminately of all that came in their way, and of landing in different places to plunder for subsistence as well as they could.

The congress in the mean time continued to act with all the vigor which its constituents had expected. Articles of confederation and perpetual union were drawn up and solemnly agreed upon; by which they bound themselves and their posterity forever. These were in substance as follow:

1. Each colony was to be independent within itself, and to retain an absolute sovereignty in all domestic affairs.

2. Delegates to be annually elected to meet in congress, at such time and place as should be enacted in the preceeding congress.

3. This assembly should have the power of determining war or peace, making alliances; and, in short, all that power which sovereigns of states usually claim as their own.

4. The expenses of war to be paid out of the common treasury, and raised by a poll-tax on males from

sixteen to sixty : and the proportions to be determined by the laws of the colony.

5. An executive council to be appointed, to act in place of the congress during its recess.

6. No colony to make war with the Indians without the consent of congress.

7. The boundaries of all the Indian lands to be secured and ascertained to them ; and no purchases of lands were to be made by individuals, or even by a colony, without the consent of congress.

8. Agents appointed by congress should reside among the Indians, to prevent fraud in trading with them, and to relieve, at the public expence, their wants and distresses.

9. This confederation to last until there should be a reconciliation with Britian ; or, if that event should not take place, it was to be perpetual.

After the action of Bunker's Hill, however, when the power of Great Britian appeared less formidable in the eyes of America than before, congress proceeded formally to justify their proceedings in a declaration drawn up in terms more expressive, and well calculated to excite attention.

“ Were it possible (said they) for men who exercise their reason, to believe, that the Divine Author of our existence, intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom as the objects of a legal domination, never rightfully resistible, however severe and oppressive ; the inhabitants of these colonies might at least require from the parliament of Great Britain, some evidence that this dreadful authority over them had been granted to that body : But a reverence for our Great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.

“ The legislature of Great Britain, however, stimu-

lated by an inordinate passion for power, not only unjustifiable, but which they know to be peculiarly reprobated by the very constitution of that kingdom, and despairing of success in any mode of contest where regard should be had to law, truth, or right, have, at length, deserting those, attempted to effect their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving these colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it necessary for us to close with their last appeal from reason to arms. Yet, however blinded that assembly may be, by their intemperate rage for unlimited domination, so to slight justice in the opinion of mankind, we esteem ourselves bound by obligations to the rest of the world, to make known the justice of our cause."

After taking notice of the manner in which their ancestors left Britain, the happiness attending the mutual friendly commerce betwixt that country and her colonies, and the remarkable success of the late war, they proceed as follows: "The new ministry, finding the brave foes of Britain, though frequently defeated, yet still contending, took up the unfortunate idea of granting them a hasty peace, and of then subduing her faithful friends.

"These devoted colonies were judged to be in such a state as to present victories without bloodshed, and all the easy emoluments of statutable plunder. The uninterrupted tenor of their peaceable and respectful behavior from the beginning of their colonization; their dutiful, zealous, and useful services during the war, though so recently and amply acknowledged in the most honourable manner by his majesty, by the late king, and by parliament, could not save them from the intended innovations. Parliament was influenced to adopt the pernicious project; and assuming a new power over them, has in the course of eleven years, given such decisive specimens of the spirit and consequences attending this power, as to leave no doubt of the effects of acquiescence under it.

"They have undertaken to give and grant our money without our consent, though we have ever excersi-

sed an exclusive right to dispose of our own property. Statutes have been passed for extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty beyond their ancient limits ; for depriving us of the accustomed and inestimable rights of trial by jury, in cases affecting both life and property ; for suspending the legislature of one of our colonies ; for interdicting all commerce to the capital of an other ; and for altering, fundamentally, the form of government established by charter, and secured by acts of its own legislature ; and solemnly confirmed by the crown ; for exempting the murderers of colonists from legal trial, and in effect from punishment ; for erecting in a neighbouring province, acquired by the joint arms of Great Britain and America, a despotism dangerous to our very existence ; and for quartering soldiers upon the colonists in a time of profound peace. It has also been resolved in parliament, that colonists, charged with committing certain offences, shall be transported to England to be tried.

“ But why should we enumerate our injuries in detail ?—By one statute it is declared, that parliament can of right make laws to bind us in all cases whatever. What is to defend us against so enormous, so unlimited a power ? Not a single person who assumes it is chosen by us, or is subject to our controul or influence ; but, on the contrary, they are all of them exempt from the operation of such laws ; and an American revenue, if not diverted from the ostensible purposes for which it was raised, would actually lighten their own burthens, in proportion as it increases ours.

“ We saw the misery to which such despotism would reduce us. We, for ten years, incessantly and ineffectually besieged the throne, as suppliants ; we reasoned, we remonstrated with parliament, in the most mild and decent language ; but administration, sensible that we should regard these measures as freemen ought to do, sent over fleets and armies to enforce them.

“ We have pursued every temperate, every respectful measure ; we have even proceeded to break off all commercial intercourse with our fellow sub-

jects, as our last peaceable admonition, that our attachment to no nation on earth would supplant our attachment to liberty. This we flattered ourselves was the ultimate step of the controversy ; but subsequent events have shown how vain was this hope of finding moderation in our enemies !

“ The lords and commons, in their address in the month of February, said, that a rebellion at that time actually existed in the province of Massachusetts-Bay ; and that those concerned in it had been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements entered into by his majesty’s subjects in several of the colonies ; and therefore they besought his majesty that he would take the most effectual measures to enforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme legislature.

“ Soon after, the commercial intercourse of whole colonies, with foreign countries, was cut off by an act of parliament ; by another, several of them were entirely prohibited from the fisheries in the seas near their coasts, on which they always depended for their subsistence ; and large reinforcements of ships and troops were immediately sent over to Gen. Gage.

“ Fruitless were the entreaties, arguments, and eloquence, of an illustrious band of the most distinguished peers and commoners, who nobly and strenuously asserted the justice of our cause, to stay, or even to mitigate, the heedless fury with which these accumulated outrages were hurried on. Equally fruitless was the interference of the city of London, of Bristol, and of many other respectable towns in our favor.”

After reproaching parliament, Gen. Gage, and the British government in general, they proceed thus :—  
“ We are reduced to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to tyranny, or resistance by force. The latter is our choice. We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery. Honor, justice, and humanity, forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our inno-



cent posterity have a right to receive from us. Our cause is just; our union is perfect; our internal resources are great; and, if necessary, foreign assistance is undoubtedly attainable.

“We fight not for glory or conquest. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable spectacle of people attacked by unprovoked enemies. They boast of their privileges and civilization, and yet proffer no milder conditions than servitude or death. In our native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birthright, for the protection of our property, acquired by the honest industry of our forefathers and our own, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms; we shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of our aggressors, and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed—and not before.”

These are some of the most striking passages in the declaration of congress on taking up arms against Great Britain, and dated July 6th, 1775. Without inquiring whether the principles on which it is founded are right or wrong, the determined spirit which it shows, ought to have convinced the people of Britain, that the conquest of America was an event scarce ever to be expected. In every other respect, an equal spirit was shown; and the rulers of the British nation had the mortification to see those whom they styled rebels and traitors, succeed in negotiations in which they themselves were utterly foiled.

In the passing of the Quebec bill, the ministry had flattered themselves that the Canadians would be so much attached to them on account of restoring the French laws, that they would very readily join in any attempt against the colonists, who had reprobated that bill in such strong terms. But in this, as in every thing else indeed, they found themselves mistaken. The Canadians having been subject to Great Britain for a period of fifteen years, and being thus rendered sensible of the advantages of British government, received the bill itself with evident marks of disapprobation, nay, reprobated it as tyrannical and oppressive.

A scheme had been formed for Gen. Carleton, governor of the province, to raise an army of Canadians wherewith to act against the Americans; and so sanguine were the hopes of administration in this respect, that they had sent twenty thousand stand of arms, and a great quantity of military stores, to Quebec for the purpose. But the people, though they did not join the Americans, yet were found immoveable in their purpose to stand neuter. Application was made to the bishop, but he declined to interpose his influence, as contrary to the rules of the Popish clergy; so that the utmost efforts of government in this province were found to answer little or no purpose.



## CHAPTER X.

Britain attempts to engage the Indians in their cause.—Address of congress to the Indians, by which they are engaged to preserve a neutrality.—George Washington appointed commander-in-chief of the American forces.—Georgia joins the confederacy.—Conquest of Canada contemplated—Reduction of Chamblee.—St. Johns taken by the Americans.—Montreal, and the British shipping there, surrenders to the Americans.

**T**HE British administration next tried to engage the Indians in their cause. But though agents were dispersed among them, with large presents to their chiefs, they universally replied, that they did not understand the nature of the quarrel, nor could they distinguish whether those who dwelt in America, or those on the other side of the ocean, were in fault; but they were surprised to see Englishmen ask their assistance against one another, and advised them to be reconciled, and not to think of shedding the blood of their brethren.

To the representations of congress the Indians paid more respect. These set forth, that the English, on the other side of the ocean, had taken up arms to enslave not only their countrymen in America, but the Indians also; and if the latter should enable them to

overcome the colonists, they themselves would soon be reduced to a state of slavery also.

By arguments of this kind, these savages were prevailed on to remain neuter ; and thus the colonies were freed from a most dangerous enemy. On this occasion the congress thought fit to hold a solemn conference with the different tribes of Indians. The speech made by them on this occasion, is too long to be fully inserted ; the following is an extract :

“ Brothers, Sachems, and Warriors !

“ We, the delegates from the Twelve United Provinces, now sitting in general congress at Philadelphia, send their talk to you, our brothers.

“ Brothers and Friends, now attend !

“ When our fathers crossed the great water, and came over to this land, the king of England gave them a talk, assuring them that they and their children should be his children ; and that if they would leave their native country, and make settlements, and live here, and buy and sell, and trade with their brethren beyond the water, they should still keep hold of the same covenant chain, and enjoy peace ; and it was covenanted, that the fields, houses, goods, and possessions, which our fathers should acquire, should remain to them as their own, and be their children’s for ever, and at their sole disposal.

“ Brothers and friends, open an ear !

“ We will now tell you of the quarrel betwixt the counsellors of King George and the inhabitants and colonies of America.

“ Many of his counsellors have persuaded him to break the covenant chain, and not to send us any more good talks. They have prevailed upon him to enter into a covenant against us, and have torn asunder, and cast behind their backs, the good old covenant which their ancestors and ours entered into, and took strong hold of. They now tell us they will put their hands into our pocket without asking, as though it were their own ; and at their pleasure they will take from us our charters, or written civil constitution, which we love as

our lives ; also our plantations, our houses, and our goods, whenever they please, without asking our leave. They tell us that our vessels may go to this or that island in the sea, but to that or this particular island we shall not trade any more ; and in case of our non-compliance with these new orders, they shut up our harbors.

“ Brothers ! We live on the same ground with you ; the same island is our common birth-place. We desire to sit down under the same tree of peace with you ; let us water its roots, and cherish the growth, till the large leaves and flourishing branches shall extend to the setting sun, and reach the skies. If any thing disagreeable should ever fall out between us, the Twelve United Colonies, and you, to wound our peace, let us immediately seek measures for healing the breach. From the present situation of our affairs, we judge it expedient to kindle up a small fire at Albany, where we may hear each other’s voice, and disclose our minds fully to one another.”

The other remarkable transactions of this congress were, the ultimate refusal of the conciliatory proposal made by Lord North, of which such sanguine expectations had been formed by the English ministry ; and the appointment of a generalissimo to command their armies, which were now very numerous. The person chosen for this purpose, was George Washington, a man so universally beloved, that he was raised to this high station by the unanimous voice of congress ; and his subsequent conduct showed him every way worthy of the confidence reposed in him.

Horace Gates and Charles Lee, two English officers of considerable reputation, were also chosen ; the former an adjutant-general, the second a major-general. Artemas Ward, Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam, were likewise nominated major-generals. Seth Pomeroy, Richard Montgomery, David Wooster, William Heath, Joseph Spencer, John Thomas, John Sullivan, and Nathaniel Green, were chosen brigadier-generals at the same time.

Congress had now also the satisfaction to receive deputies from the colony of Georgia, expressing a desire to join the confederacy. The reasons they gave for renouncing their allegiance to Britain, were, that the conduct of parliament towards the other colonies had been oppressive; that though the obnoxious acts had not been extended to them, they could view this only as an omission, because of the seeming little consequence of their colony; and therefore looked upon it rather to be a slight than a favor. At the same time they framed a petition to the king, similar to that sent by the other colonies, and which met with a similar reception.

The success which had hitherto attended the Americans in all their measures, now emboldened them to think, not only of defending themselves, but likewise of acting offensively against Great Britain. The conquest of Canada appeared an object within their reach, and one that would be attended with many advantages; and as an invasion of that province was already facilitated by the taking of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, it was resolved, if possible, to penetrate that way into Canada, and reduce Quebec during the winter, before the fleets and armies, which they were well assured would sail thither from Britain, should arrive.

By order of congress, therefore, three thousand men were put under the command of Generals Montgomery and Schuyler, with orders to proceed to Lake Champlain, from whence they were to be conveyed in flat-bottomed boats to the mouth of the river Sorel, a branch of the great river St. Lawrence, and on which was situated a fort of the same name with the river.

On the other hand, they were opposed by General Carleton, governor of Canada, (a man of great activity and experience in war,) who, with a very few troops, had hitherto been able to keep in awe the disaffected people of Canada, notwithstanding all the representations of the colonists. He had now augmented his army by a considerable number of Indians, and promised, even in his present situation, to make a very formidable resistance.

As soon as General Montgomery arrived at Crown-Point, he received information that a number of armed vessels were stationed at St. John's, a strong fort on the Sorel, with a view to prevent his crossing the lake ; on which he took possession of an island which commanded the mouth of the Sorel, and by which he could prevent them from entering the lake. In conjunction with General Schuyler, he next proceeded to St. John's; but finding that place too strong, it was agreed, in a council of war, to retire to Isle aux Noix, where General Schuyler being taken ill, Gen. Montgomery was left to command alone.

His first step was to gain over the Indians whom Gen. Carleton had employed, and this he in a great measure accomplished ; after which, on receiving the full number of troops appointed for his expedition, he determined to lay siege to St. Johns. In this he was facilitated by the reduction of Chamblee, a small fort in the neighborhood, where he found a large supply of powder. An attempt was made by Gen. Carleton to relieve the place ; for which purpose he had, with great pains, collected about a thousand Canadians, while Col. M'Lean proposed to raise a regiment of Highlanders, who had emigrated from Scotland to America.

But while Gen. Carleton was on his march with these new levies, he was attacked by the provincials, and utterly defeated ; which being made known to another body of Canadians who had joined Col. M'Lean, they abandoned him without striking a blow, and he was obliged to retreat to Quebec.

The defeat of General Carleton was a sufficient recompence to the Americans for that of Col. Ethan Allen, which happened some time before. The success which attended this gentleman against Crown-Point and Ticonderaga, had emboldened him to make a similar attempt on Montreal ; but being attacked by the militia of the place, supported by a detachment of regulars, he was entirely defeated and taken prisoner.

As the defeat of General Carleton, and the desertion of M'Lean's forces, left no room for the garrison

of St. John's to hope for any relief, they now consented to surrender themselves prisoners of war; but were in other respects treated with great humanity. They were in number five hundred regulars and two hundred Canadians, among whom were many of the French nobility, who had been very active in promoting the cause of Britain among their countrymen.

General Montgomery next took measures to prevent the British shipping from passing down the river from Montreal to Quebec. This he accomplished so effectually, that the whole were taken. The town itself was obliged to surrender at discretion; and it was with the utmost difficulty that General Carleton escaped in an open boat by the favor of a dark night.



## CHAPTER XI.

Col. Arnold arrives at Quebec with a small force.—Gen. Montgomery also arrives.—The combined army attack Quebec.—Gen. Montgomery killed.—Col. Arnold wounded.—Part of the Americans surrender.—Col. Arnold created brigadier-general.—Dispute between the Virginians and Lord Dunmore, who abandons the government of the colony.—League with the Ohio Indians.

**N**O further obstacle now remained in the way of the Americans to the capital, except what arose from the nature of the country; and these indeed were very considerable. Nothing, however, could damp the ardor of the Americans.

Notwithstanding it was now the middle of November, and the depth of winter was at hand, Col. Arnold formed a design of penetrating through woods, morasses, and the most frightful solitudes, from New-England to Canada, by a nearer way than that which Gen. Montgomery had chosen; and this he accomplished, in spite of every difficulty, to the astonishment of all who saw or heard of the attempt.

A third part of his men, under another colonel, had been obliged to leave him by the way, for want of pro-

visions; the total want of artillery rendered his presence insignificant before a place so strongly fortified; and the smallness of his army rendered it even doubtful whether he could have taken the town by surprize.

The Canadians, indeed, were amazed at the exploit, and their inclination to revolt was somewhat augmented; but none of them as yet took up arms in behalf of America.

The consternation into which the town of Quebec was thrown, proved detrimental rather than otherwise to the expedition; as it doubled the vigilance and activity of the inhabitants to prevent any surprize; and the appearance of common danger united all parties, who, before the arrival of Arnold, were contending most violently with one another.

He was therefore obliged to content himself with blocking up the avenues to the town, in order to distress the garrison for want of provisions; and even this he was unable to do effectually, by reason of the small number of his men.

The matter was not much mended by the arrival of General Montgomery. The force he had with him, even when united to that of Arnold, was too insignificant to attempt the reduction of a place so strongly fortified, especially with the assistance of only a few mortars and field-pieces.

After the siege had continued through the month of December, Gen. Montgomery, conscious that he could accomplish his end in no other way than by surprize, resolved to make an attempt on the last day of the year 1775. The method he took at this time, was, perhaps, the best that human wisdom could devise. He advanced by break of day, in the midst of a heavy fall of snow, which covered his men from the sight of the enemy.

Two real attacks were made by himself and Col. Arnold, at the same time that two feigned attacks were made on two other places, thus to distract the garrison, and make them divide their forces. One of the real



attacks was made by the people of New-York, and the other by those of New-England, under Col. Arnold.

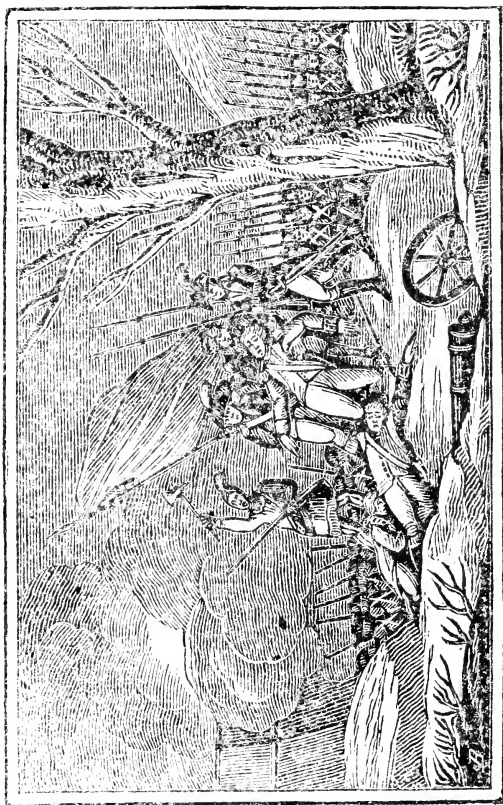
Their hopes of surprizing the place, however, were defeated, by the signal for the attack being by some mistake given too soon. Gen. Montgomery himself had the most dangerous place, being obliged to pass between the river and some high rocks, on which the upper town stands ; so that he was forced to make what haste he could to close with the enemy.

His fate, however, was now decided. Having forced the first barrier, a violent discharge of musketry and grape-shot from the second, killed him, his principal officers, and the most of the party he commanded ; on which those who remained immediately retreated.

Col. Arnold, in the mean time, made a desperate attack on the lower town, and carried one of the barriers, after an obstinate resistance for an hour ; but in the action he himself received a wound, which obliged him to withdraw. The attack, however, was continued by the officers whom he had left, and another barrier forced ; but the garrison now perceiving that nothing was to be feared except from that quarter, collected their whole force against it, and, after a desperate engagement of three hours, overpowered the provincials, and obliged them to surrender.

In this action, it must be confessed, that the valor of the provincial troops could not be exceeded. They had fought under as great disadvantages as those which had attended the British at Bunker's Hill, and had behaved equally well.

The death of Gen. Montgomery, (says Maj. Meigs, in his journal of the expedition,) though honorable, was lamented, not only as the death of an amiable, worthy friend, but as an experienced, brave officer ; the whole country suffered greatly by such a loss at this time. The native goodness and rectitude of his heart, might easily be seen in his actions ; his sentiments, which appeared on every occasion, were fraught with that unaffected goodness, which plainly discovered the virtues of the heart from whence they flowed. He was tall



STORMING OF QUEBEC, AND FALL OF GEN. MONTGOMERY—DEC. 31, 1775.

and slender, well limbed, of a genteel, easy, graceful, manly address, and had the voluntary love, esteem, and confidence of the whole army. He was shot through both thighs, and through his head. His body was taken up the next day, an elegant coffin was prepared, and he was decently interred the Thursday after.

Such a terrible disaster left no hope remaining of the accomplishment of their purpose, as Col. Arnold could now scarce number eight hundred effective men under his command. He did not, however, abandon the province, or even remove to a greater distance than three miles from Quebec; and here he still found means to annoy the garrison very considerably, by intercepting their provisions.

The Canadians, notwithstanding the bad success of the American arms, still continued friendly; and thus he was enabled to sustain the hardships of a winter encampment in that most severe climate. The congress, far from passing any censure on him for his misfortune, created him a brigadier-general.

While hostilities were thus carried on with vigor in the north, the flame of contention was gradually extending itself in the south. Lord Dunmore, the governor of Virginia, was involved in disputes similar to those which had taken place in other colonies. These had proceeded so far, that the assembly was dissolved, which in this province was attended with a consequence unknown to the rest.

As Virginia contained a great number of slaves, it was necessary that a militia should be kept constantly on foot, to keep them in awe. During the dissolution of the assembly, the militia laws expired; and the people, after complaining of the danger they were in from the negroes, formed a convention, which enacted, that each county should raise a quota for the defence of the province.

Dunmore, on this, removed the powder from Williamsburgh, which created such discontents, that an immediate quarrel would probably have ensued, had not the merchants of the town undertaken to obtain satis-

fiction for the injury supposed to have been done to the community. This tranquility, however, was soon interrupted; the people, alarmed by a report that an armed party were on their way from the man-of-war where the powder had been deposited, assembled in arms, and determined to oppose, by force, any farther removals.

In some of the conferences which passed at this time, the governor let fall some unguarded expressions, such as threatening the people with setting up the royal standard, proclaiming liberty to the negroes, destroying the town of Williamsburgh, &c. which were afterwards made public, and exaggerated in such a manner as greatly to increase the public ferment.

The people now held frequent assemblies. Some of them took up arms, with a design to force the governor to restore the powder, and to take the public money into their own possession; but on their way to Williamsburgh for this purpose, they were met by the receiver general, who became security for the payment of the gun-powder, and the inhabitants promised to take care of the magazine and public revenue.

By this insurrection, the governor was so much intimidated, that he sent his family on board a man-of-war. He himself, however, issued a proclamation, in which he declared the behavior of the persons who promoted the tumult treasonable, accused the people of disaffection, &c. On their part, the people were by no means deficient in recriminating; and some letters of his to Britain being about the same time discovered, consequences ensued, extremely similar to those which had been occasioned by those of Mr. Hutchinson, at Boston.

In this state of confusion, the governor thought it necessary to fortify his palace with artillery, and procure a party of marines to guard it. Lord North's conciliatory proposal arriving also about the same time, he used his utmost endeavors to cause the people to comply with it. The arguments he used were plausible; and, had not matters already gone to such a pitch of distraction, it is highly probable some attention would

have been paid to them. "The view (he said) in which the colonies ought to behold this conciliatory proposal, was no more than an earnest admonition from Great Britain to relieve her wants; that the utmost condescension had been used in the mode of application, no determinate sum having been fixed, as it was thought more worthy of British generosity to take what they thought could be conveniently spared, and likewise to leave the mode of raising it to themselves," &c.

But the clamor and dissatisfaction were now so universal, that nothing else could be attended to. The governor had called an assembly, for the purpose of laying this conciliatory proposal before them; but it had been little attended to. The assembly began their session, by inquiries into the state of the magazine. It had been broken into by some of the townsmen, for which reason spring guns had been placed there by the governor, which discharged themselves upon the offenders at their entrance. These circumstances, with others of a similar kind, raised such a violent uproar, that, as soon as the preliminary business of the session was over, the governor retired on board a man-of-war, informing the assembly that he durst no longer trust himself on shore.

This produced a long course of disputation, which ended in a positive refusal of the governor to trust himself again in Williamsburgh, even to give his assent to the bills, which could not be passed without it, and though the assembly offered to bind themselves for his personal safety. In his turn, he requested them to meet him on board the man-of-war, where he then was; but his proposal was rejected, and all further correspondence, containing the least appearance of friendship, was discontinued.

Lord Dunmore, having thus abandoned his government, attempted to reduce by force those whom he could not govern. Some of the most strenuous adherents to the British cause, whose zeal had rendered them obnoxious at home, now repaired to him. He was also joined by numbers of black slaves. With

these, and the assistance of the British shipping, he was for some time enabled to carry on a predatory war, sufficient to hurt and exasperate, but not to subdue.

After some inconsiderable attempts on land, proclaiming liberty to the slaves, and setting up the royal standard, he took up his residence at Norfolk, a maritime town of some consequence, where the people were better affected to Britain than in most other places. A considerable force, however, was collected against him, and the natural impetuosity of his temper, prompting him to act against them with more courage than caution, he was entirely defeated, and was obliged to retire to his shipping, which was now crowded by the number of those who had incurred the resentment of the provincials.

In the mean time, a scheme of the utmost magnitude and importance was formed by one Mr. Conolly, a Pennsylvanian attached to the cause of Britain. The first step of this plan was to enter into a league with the Ohio Indians. This he communicated to Lord Dunmore, and it received his approbation: upon which Conolly set out, and actually succeeded in his design. On his return, he was dispatched to Gen. Gage, from whom he received a colonel's commission, and set out in order to execute the remainder of his scheme.

The plan in general was, that he should return to the Ohio, where, by the assistance of the British and Indians in those parts, he was to penetrate through the back settlements to Virginia, and join Lord Dunmore at Alexandria. But, by an accident very naturally to be expected, he was discovered, taken prisoner, and confined.

## CHAPTER XII.

Norfolk burnt by the British.—The governors of the Carolinas expelled the provinces.—Gen. Gage resigns his command to Gen. Howe.—Gen. Washington attacks Boston.—Evacuation of the town by the British.—Declaration of Independence.—Second attack on Quebec proves unsuccessful.—Americans retire from Quebec.

**AFTER** the retreat of Lord Dunmore from Norfolk, that place was taken possession of by the provincials, who greatly distressed those on board Lord Dunmore's fleet, by refusing to supply them with any necessaries. This proceeding drew a remonstrance from his lordship, in which he insisted, that the fleet should be supplied with necessaries; but his request being denied, a resolution was taken to set fire to the town.

After giving the inhabitants proper warning, a party landed, under cover of a man of war, and set fire to that part which lay nearest the shore; but the flames were observed at the same time to break forth in every other quarter, and the whole town was reduced to ashes. This universal destruction, occasioned a loss of more than 300,000*l*.

In the southern colonies of Carolina, the governors were expelled, and obliged to take refuge on board of men of war, as Lord Dunmore had been; Mr. Martin, governor of North Carolina, on a charge of attempting to raise the back settlers, consisting chiefly of Scots Highlanders, against the colony.

Having secured themselves against any attempts from these enemies, however, the provincials proceeded to regulate their internal concerns in the same manner as the rest of the colonies; and by the end of the year 1775, Britian beheld the whole of America united against her in the most determined opposition. Her vast possessions of that tract of land, since known by the name of the Thirteen United States, were now reduced to the single town of Boston; in which her forces were besieged by an enemy with whom they were apparently

not able to cope, and by whom they must of course expect in a very short time to be expelled.

The situation of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, indeed, was peculiarly unhappy. After having failed in their attempts to leave the town, Gen. Gage had consented to allow them to retire with their effects ; but afterwards, treacherously refused to fulfil his promise. When he resigned his place to Gen. Howe, in October 1775, the latter, apprehensive that they might give intelligence of the situation of the British troops, strictly prohibited any person from leaving the place under pain of military execution. Thus matters continued till the month of March, 1776, when the town was evacuated.

On the 2d of that month, Gen. Washington opened a battery on the west side of the town, from whence it was bombarded, with a heavy fire of cannon at the same time ; and three days after, it was attacked by another battery from the eastern shore. This terrible attack continued for fourteen days, without intermission ; when Gen. Howe, finding the place no longer tenable, determined, if possible, to drive the enemy from their works.

Preparations were therefore made for a most vigorous attack on a hill called Dorchester Neck, which the Americans had fortified in such a manner, as would in all probability have rendered the enterprize next to desperate. No difficulties, however, were sufficient to daunt the spirit of the general ; and every thing was in readiness, when a sudden storm prevented an exertion which must have been productive of a dreadful waste of blood.

Next day, upon a more close inspection of the works they were to attack, it was thought advisable to desist from the enterprize altogether. The fortifications were very strong, and extremely well provided with artillery ; and, besides other implements of destruction, one hundred hogsheads of stones were provided to roll down upon the enemy as they came up ; which as the ascent was steep, must have done prodigious execution.

Nothing therefore now remained but to think of a retreat ; and even this was attended with the utmost diffi-



culty and danger. The Americans, however, knowing that it was in the power of the British general to reduce the town to ashes, which could not have been repaired in many years, did not think proper to give the least molestation ; and for the space of a fortnight the troops were employed in the evacuation of the place, from whence they carried along with them two thousand of the inhabitants, who durst not stay on account of their attachment to the British cause.

From Boston they sailed to Halifax ; but all their vigilance could not prevent a number of valuable ships from falling into the hands of the Americans. A considerable quantity of cannon and ammunition had also been left at Bunker's Hill and Boston neck ; and in the town, an immense variety of goods, principally woollen and linen, of which the provincials stood very much in need. The estates of those who fled to Halifax were confiscated ; as also those who were attached to government, and had remained in the town.

As an attack was expected as soon as the British forces should arrive, every method was employed to render the fortifications, already very strong, impregnable. For this purpose, some foreign engineers were employed, who had before arrived at Boston ; and so eager were the people of all ranks to accomplish this business, that every able-bodied man in the place, without distinction of rank, set apart two days in the week, to complete it the sooner.

The Americans, exasperated to the utmost by the proceedings of parliament, which placed them out of the royal protection, and engaged foreign mercenaries in the plan for subduing them, now formally renounced all connection with Britain, by declaring themselves independent. This celebrated declaration was published to the world, by the American congress, on the memorable 4th of July, 1776, as follows :

“ When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate

and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them; a decent respect to the opinions of mankind, requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

“Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments, long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience has shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.—But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same objects, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

“Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

“He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

“He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended

in their operation till his assent should be obtained ; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

“ He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

“ He has called together legislative bodies, at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

“ He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

“ He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected ; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large, for their exercise ; the state remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the danger of invasion from without and convulsions within.

“ He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states ; for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their emigration hither, and raising the condition of new appropriations of lands.

“ He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

“ He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries.

“ He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people and eat out their substance.

“ He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

“ He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

“ He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws ; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation—

“ For quartering large bodies of troops among us :

“ For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states :

“ For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world :

“ For imposing taxes on us without our consent :

“ For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury :

“ For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offences :

“ For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies :

“ For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments :

“ For suspending our legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

“ He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

“ He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

“ He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to complete the work of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

“ He has constrained our fellow citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their coun-

try, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

“He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

“In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

“Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature, to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence.

“They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind—enemies in war—in peace friends.

“We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, **Free and Independent States**: that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war,

conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things, which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

After thus publicly throwing off all allegiance and hope of reconciliation, the colonists soon found, that an exertion of all their strength was required in order to support their pretensions. Their arms, indeed, had not, this season, been attended with success in Canada. Reinforcements had been promised to Col. Arnold, who still continued the blockade of Quebec; but they did not arrive in time to second his operations.

Being sensible, however, that he must either desist from the enterprize, or finish it successfully, he recommenced in form; attempting to burn the shipping, and even to storm the town itself. They were unsuccessful, however, by reason of the smallness of their number, though they succeeded so far as to burn a number of houses in the suburbs; and the garrison were obliged to pull down the remainder, in order to prevent the fire from spreading.

As the Americans, though unable to reduce the town, kept the garrison in continual alarm, and in a very disagreeable situation, some of the nobility collected themselves into a body, under the command of one Mr. Beaujeu, in order to relieve their capital; but they were met on their march by the Americans, and so entirely defeated, that they were never afterwards able to attempt any thing.

The Americans, however, had but little reason to plume themselves on this success. The want of artillery at last convinced them, that it was impracticable, in their situation, to reduce a place so strongly fortified; the small-pox at the same time made its appearance in their camp, and carried off great numbers—intimidating the rest to such a degree, that they deserted in crowds.

To add to their misfortunes, the British reinforce-

ments unexpectedly appeared, and the ships made their way through the ice with such celerity, that one part of their army was separated from the other ; and Gen. Carleton sallying out as soon as the reinforcement was landed, obliged them to fly with the utmost precipitation, leaving behind them all their cannon and military stores ; at the same time that their shipping was entirely captured by vessels sent up the river for that purpose. On this occasion, the provincials fled with such precipitation that they could not be overtaken ; so that none fell into the hands of the British, except the sick and wounded.

Gen. Carleton now gave a signal instance of his humanity. Being well apprized that many of the provincials had not been able to accompany the rest in their retreat, and that they were concealed in woods, &c. in a very deplorable situation, he generously issued a proclamation, ordering proper persons to seek them out, and give them relief at the public expense ; at the same time, lest, through fear of being made prisoners, they should refuse these offers of humanity, he promised, that as soon as their situation enabled them, they should be at liberty to depart to their respective homes.



### CHAPTER XIII.

**Affair at Sorel, and General Thompson taken prisoner.—Americans retreat from Canada.—Success of the Americans in N. Carolina and Virginia.—Arrival of a British fleet at Charleston, S. C.—Battle on Sullivan's Island.**

**T**HE British general, now freed from any danger of an attack, was soon enabled to act offensively against the Americans, by the arrival of the forces destined for that purpose from Britain. By these he was put at the head of twelve thousand regular troops, among whom were those of Brunswick.

With this force, he instantly set out for Three

Rivers, where he expected that Arnold would make a stand; but he had retired to Sorel, one hundred and fifty miles distant from Quebec, where he was at last met by the reinforcements ordered by congress.

Here, though the preceding events were by no means calculated to inspire much military ardor, a very daring enterprize was undertaken; and this was, to surprise the British troops posted here under Generals Fraser and Nesbit; of whom the former commanded those on land, and the latter such as were on board of transports, and were but a little way distant.

The enterprize was undoubtedly very hazardous, both on account of the strength of the parties against whom they were to act, and as the main-body of the British forces were advanced within fifty miles of the place; besides that, a number of armed vessels and transports, with troops, lay between them and Three Rivers.

Two thousand chosen men, however, under Gen. Thompson, engaged in this enterprize. Their success was by no means answerable to their spirit and valor. Though they passed the shipping without being observed, Gen. Fraser had notice of their landing; and thus being prepared to receive them, they were soon thrown into disorder, at the same time that Gen. Nesbit, having landed his forces, prepared to attack them in the rear.

On this occasion, some field-pieces did prodigious execution, and a retreat was found to be unavoidable. Gen. Nesbit, however, had got between them and their boats; so that they were obliged to take a circuit through a deep swamp, while they were hotly pursued by both parties at the same time, who marched for some miles on each side of the swamp, till at last the unfortunate Americans were sheltered from further danger by a wood at the end of the swamp. The general, however, was taken, with two hundred of his men.

By this disaster, the Americans lost all hopes of accomplishing any thing in Canada. They demolished their works, and carried off their artillery, with the ut-



most expedition. They were pursued, however, by Gen. Burgoyne, against whom it was expected they would have collected all their forces, and made a resolute stand. But they were now too much dispirited by misfortune, to make any further exertions of valor.

On the 18th of June, the British general arrived at fort St. John's, which he found abandoned and burnt. Chamblee had shared the same fate, as well as all the vessels that were not capable of being dragged up against the current of the river. It was thought they would have made some resistance at Nut Island, the entrance to Lake Champlain; but this, also, they had abandoned, and retreated across the lake to Crown-Point, whither they could not be immediately followed.

Thus was the province of Canada entirely evacuated by the Americans; whose loss, in their retreat from Quebec, was not calculated at less than one thousand men, of whom four hundred fell at once into the hands of the enemy, at a place called the Cedars, about fifty miles above Montreal. Gen. Sullivan, however, who conducted this retreat after the affair of Gen. Thompson, had great merit in what he did, and received the thanks of congress accordingly.

This bad success in the north, however, was somewhat compensated by what happened in the southern colonies. We have formerly taken notice, that Mr. Martin, governor of North-Carolina, had been obliged to leave his province, and take refuge on board a man-of-war. Notwithstanding this, he did not despair of reducing it again to obedience. For this purpose, he applied to the regulators, a daring set of banditti, who lived in a kind of independent state; and though considered by government as rebels, yet had never been molested, on account of their numbers, and known skill in the use of fire arms.

Commissions were sent to the chiefs of these people, in order to raise some regiments; and a Col. M'Donald was appointed to command them. In the month of February, he erected the king's standard, issued proclamations, &c. and collected some forces, expecting to

be soon joined by a body of regulars, who were known to have been shipped from England, to act against the southern colonies.

The Americans, sensible of their danger, dispatched immediately what forces they had, to act against the royalists, at the same time that they exerted themselves to support these with suitable reinforcements. Their present force was commanded by a Gen. Moore, whose numbers were inferior to those of M'Donald; for which reason the latter summoned him to join the king's standard, under pain of being treated as a rebel.

But Moore, being well provided with cannon, and conscious that nothing could be attempted against him, returned the compliment, by acquainting Col. M'Donald, that if he and his party would lay down their arms, and subscribe an oath of fidelity to congress, they would be treated as friends; but if they persisted in an undertaking, for which it was evident they had not sufficient strength, they could not but expect the severest treatment.

In a few days, Gen. Moore found himself at the head of eight thousand men, by reason of the continual supplies which daily arrived from all parts. The royal party amounted only to two thousand, and they were destitute of artillery, which prevented their attacking the Americans while they had the advantage of numbers. They were now, therefore, obliged to have recourse to a desperate exertion of personal valor; by dint of which, they effected a retreat for near eighty miles, to Moore's Creek, within sixteen miles of Wilmington.

Could they have gained this place, they expected to have been joined by Mr. Martin and Gen. Clinton, who had lately arrived with a considerable detachment.— But Moore, with his army, pursued them so close, that they were obliged to attempt the passage of the creek itself, though a considerable body of the Americans, under the command of Col. Caswell, with fortifications well planted with cannon, was posted on the other side.

On attempting the creek, however, it was found not to be fordable.

They were obliged, therefore, to cross over a wooden bridge, which the Americans had not time to destroy entirely. They had, however, by pulling up a part of the plank, and greasing the remainder, in order to render them slippery, made the passage so difficult, that the royalists could not attempt it. In this situation they were, on the 27th of February, attacked by Moore, with his superior army, and totally defeated, with the loss of their general and most of their leaders, as well as the best and bravest of their men.

Thus was the power of the Americans established in North-Carolina. Nor were they less successful in Virginia, where Lord Dunmore, having long continued an useless predatory war, was at last driven from every creek and road in the province. The people he had on board, were distressed to the highest degree, by confinement in small vessels. The heat of the season, and the numbers crowded together, produced a pestilential fever, which made great havoc, especially among the blacks.

At last, finding themselves in the utmost danger of perishing by famine, as well as disease, they set fire to the least valuable of their vessels, reserving only about fifty to themselves, in which they bid a final adieu to Virginia—some sailing to Florida, some to Bermuda, and the rest to the West-Indies.

In South-Carolina, the Americans had a more formidable enemy to deal with. A squadron, whose object was the reduction of Charleston, had been fitted out in December, 1775; but by reason of unfavorable weather, did not reach Cape Fear, in North-Carolina, till the month of May, 1776; and here it met with further obstacles, till the end of the month. Thus the Americans, always noted for their alertness in raising fortifications, had time to strengthen those of Charleston in such a manner, as rendered the place extremely difficult to be attacked.

The British squadron consisted of two fifty gun ships.

four of thirty guns, two of twenty, an armed schooner, and a bomb-ketch; all under the command of Sir Peter Parker. The land forces were commanded by Lord Cornwallis, with Generals Clinton and Vaughan. As they had yet no intelligence of the evacuation of Boston, Gen. Howe dispatched a vessel to Cape Fear, with some instructions—but it was too late; and in the beginning of June, the squadron anchored off Charleston bar. Here they met with some difficulty in crossing, being obliged to take out the guns from the two largest ships, which were, notwithstanding, several times in danger of sticking fast.

The next obstacle was a strong fort on Sullivan's Island, six miles east from Charleston, which, though not completely finished, was very strong. However, the British generals resolved, without hesitation, to attack it; but though an attack was easy from sea, it was very difficult to obtain a co-operation of the land forces.—This was attempted by landing them on Long Island, adjacent to Sullivan's Island on the east, from which it is separated by a very narrow creek, said to be not above two feet deep at low water.

Opposite to this ford, the Americans had posted a strong body of troops, with cannon and entrenchments, while Gen. Lee was posted on the main land, with a bridge of boats betwixt that and Sullivan's Island, so that he could at pleasure send reinforcements to the troops in the fort on Sullivan's Island.

On the part of the British, so many delays occurred, that it was the 24th of June before matters were in readiness for an attack; and by this time, the Americans had abundantly provided for their reception. On the morning of that day, the bomb-ketch began to throw shells into Fort Sullivan, and about mid-day, the two fifty gun ships, and thirty gun frigates, came up, and began a severe fire.

Three other frigates were ordered to take their station between Charleston and the fort, in order to enfilade the batteries, and cut off the communication with the main land; but, through the ignorance of the pi-

lots, they all stuck fast ; and though two of them were disentangled, they were found to be totally unfit for service. The third was burnt, that she might not fall into the hands of the Americans.

The attack was therefore confined to the five armed ships and bomb-ketch, between whom and the fort a dreadful fire ensued. The Bristol suffered excessively : the springs on her cable being shot away, she was for some time entirely exposed to the enemy's fire. As the Americans poured in great quantities of red hot balls, she was twice in flames. Her captain, Mr. Morris, after receiving five wounds, was obliged to go below deck, in order to have his arm amputated. After undergoing this operation, he returned to his place, where he received another wound, but still refused to quit his station. At last, he received a red hot ball in his belly, which instantly put an end to his life.

Of all the officers and seamen who stood on the quarter-deck of the Bristol, not one escaped without a wound, excepting Sir Peter Parker alone ; whose intrepidity and presence of mind on this occasion, were very remarkable. The engagement lasted till darkness put an end to it. Little damage was done by the British, as the works of the Americans lay so low, that many of the shot flew over ; and the fortifications, being composed of palm trees mixed with earth, were extremely well calculated to resist the impression of cannon.

During the height of the attack, the American batteries remained for some time silent, so that it was concluded that they had been abandoned ; but this was found to proceed only from want of powder ; for as soon as a supply of this necessary article was obtained, the firing was resumed as brisk as before. During the whole of this desperate engagement, it was found impossible for the land forces to give the least assistance to the fleet ; the American works were found to be much stronger than they had been imagined, and the depth of water effectually prevented them from making any attempt.

In this unsuccessful attack, the killed and wounded on the part of the British, amounted to about two hundred. The *Bristol* and *Experiment* were so much damaged, that it was thought they could not have been got over the bar; however, this was at last accomplished, by a very great exertion of naval skill, to the surprize of the Americans, who had expected to make them both prizes. On the American side, the loss was judged to have been considerable.



## CHAPTER XIV.

Com. Hopkins sails to the Bahama Islands, and takes the ordnance and military stores.—Lord Howe arrives before New-York with a British fleet.—Gen. Howe attempts a reconciliation.—Americans defeated near Flatbush, L. I.—Retreat from Long Island.—Gen. Sullivan sent on an unsuccessful mission to congress.—British gain possession of New-York.

**T**HIS year, the Americans, having so frequently made trial of their valor by land, became desirous of trying it on sea also, and of forming a navy, that might in some measure be able to protect their trade, and do essential hurt to the enemy.

In the beginning of March, Commodore Hopkins was dispatched with five frigates to the Bahama Islands, where he made himself master of the ordnance and military stores; but the gun-powder, which had been the principal object, was removed. On his return, he captured several vessels; but was foiled in his attempt on the *Glasgow* frigate, which found means to escape, notwithstanding the efforts of his whole squadron.

The time, however, was now come, when the fortitude and patience of the Americans were to undergo a severe trial. Hitherto they had been on the whole successful in their operations; but now, they were doomed to experience misfortune, misery, and disappointment; the enemy overrunning their country, and their own armies not able to face them in the field.

New-York, as being the most accessible by sea, was

pitched upon for the place of the main attack. The force sent against it consisted of six ships of the line and thirty frigates, besides other armed vessels, and a vast number of transports. The fleet was commanded by Lord Howe, and the land forces by his brother, General Howe. The latter had, some time before his lordship arrived, set sail from Halifax, and lay before New-York, but without attempting to commence hostilities until he should be joined by the fleet.

The Americans had, in the mean time, fortified New-York, and the adjacent islands, in an extraordinary manner. Gen. Howe, however, was suffered to land his troops on Staten Island, where he was soon joined by a number of the inhabitants.

About the middle of July Lord Howe arrived with the grand armament; and, being one of the commissioners appointed by the British government to receive the submission of the Americans, he sent circular letters to the several governors, desiring them to make the extent of his commission, and the powers he was invested with, as public as possible.

Here, however, congress saved him trouble, by ordering his letter and declaration to be published in all the newspapers—"that every one might see the insidiousness of the British ministry, and that they had nothing to trust to but the exertion of their own valor."

Lord Howe next sent a letter to Gen. Washington; but as it was directed to "George Washington, Esq." the general refused to accept of it, as not being directed in a style suitable to his station. To obviate this objection, Adjutant-general Patterson was sent with another letter, directed to "George Washington, &c. &c. &c." But though a very polite reception was given to the bearer, Gen. Washington utterly refused the letter; nor could any explanation of the adjutant induce him to accept of it.

The only interesting part of the conversation was that relating to the powers of the commissioners, of whom Lord Howe was one. The adjutant informed Gen. Washington that these powers were very exten-

sive ; that these commissioners were determined to exert themselves to the utmost in order to bring about a reconciliation, and that he hoped the general would consider this visit as a step towards it. Gen. Washington replied, that it did not appear that these powers consisted in any thing else than granting pardons ; and as America had committed no offence, she asked no forgiveness, and was only defending her unquestionable rights.

The decision of every thing being now by consent of both parties left to the sword, no time was lost, but hostilities commenced as soon as the British troops could be collected. However, this was not done before the month of August, when they landed without opposition on Long Island, opposite to the shore of Staten Island.

Gen. Putnam, with a large body of men, lay encamped and strongly fortified, on a peninsula on the opposite shore, with a range of hills between the armies, the principal pass of which was near a place called Flatbush. Here the centre of the British army, consisting of Hessians, took post ; the left wing, under Gen. Grant, lying near the shore ; and the right, consisting of the greater part of the British forces, lay under Lords Percy and Cornwallis, and Gen. Clinton.

Putnam had ordered the passes to be secured by large detachments, which was executed as to those at hand ; but one of the utmost importance, that lay at a distance, was entirely neglected. This gave an opportunity to a large body of troops, under Percy and Clinton, to pass the mountains, and attack the Americans in the rear, while they were engaged with the Hessians in front. Through this piece of negligence, their defeat became inevitable.

Those who were engaged with the Hessians first perceived their mistake, and began a retreat towards their camp ; but the passage was intercepted by the British troops, who drove them back into the woods. Here they were met by the Hessians ; and thus they were for many hours slaughtered between the two par-



ties, no way of escape remaining, but by breaking through the British troops, and thus regaining their camp. In this attempt, many perished ; and the right wing, engaged with Gen. Grant, shared the same fate.

The victory was complete ; and the Americans lost, on this fatal day, (August 27th,) considerably upwards of one thousand men, and two generals. Several officers of distinction were made prisoners, with a number of privates. Among the slain, a regiment consisting of young gentlemen of family and fortune in Maryland, were almost entirely cut in pieces ; and of the survivors, not one escaped without a wound.

The ardor of the British troops was now so great, that they could scarce be restrained from attacking the lines of the Americans ; but for this there was now no occasion, as it was certain they could not be defended. Of the British and Hessians, about four hundred and fifty were lost in this engagement.

As none of the American commanders thought proper to risk another attack, it was resolved to abandon their camp as soon as possible. Accordingly, on the night of the 29th of August, the whole of the continental troops were ferried over with the utmost secrecy and silence ; so that in the morning, the British had nothing to do but to take possession of the camp and artillery which they had abandoned.

This victory, though complete, was very far from being so decisive as the conquerors imagined. Lord Howe, supposing that it would be sufficient to intimidate the congress into some terms, sent Gen. Sullivan, who had been taken prisoner in the late action, to congress, with a message, importing, that though he could not consistently treat with them as a legal assembly, yet he would be very glad to confer with any of the members in their private capacity ; setting forth, at the same time, the nature and extent of his powers as commissioner.

But the congress were not so humbled as to derogate in the least from the dignity of character they had assumed. They replied, that the congress of the free

and independent states of America could not consistently send any of its members in another capacity than that which they had publicly assumed ; but, as they were extremely desirous of restoring peace to their country, upon equitable conditions, they would appoint a committee of their body, to wait upon him, and learn what proposals he had to make.

This produced a new conference. The committee appointed by congress, was composed of Dr. Franklin, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Rutledge. They were very politely received by his lordship ; but the conference proved as fruitless as before independence had been declared ; and the final answer of the deputies was, that they were extremely willing to enter into any treaty with Great Britain, that might conduce to the good of both nations, but that they would not treat in any other character than that of independent states.— This positive declaration instantly put an end to all hopes of reconciliation ; and it was resolved to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor.

Lord Howe, after publishing a manifesto, in which he declared the refusal of congress, and that he himself was willing to confer with all well disposed persons about the means of restoring public tranquility, set about the most proper methods for reducing the city of New-York. Here the American troops were posted, and, from a great number of batteries, kept continually annoying the British shipping.

The East River lay between them, of about twelve hundred yards in breadth, which the British troops were extremely desirous of passing. At last, the ships having, after an incessant cannonade of several days, silenced the most troublesome batteries, a body of the troops was sent up the river, to a bay about three miles distant, where the fortifications were less than in other places.

Here, having driven off the Americans by the cannon of the fleet, they marched directly towards the city ; but the Americans, finding that they should now be attacked on all sides, abandoned the city, and retired

to the north of the island, where their principal force was collected. In their passage thither, they skirmished with the British, but carefully avoided a general engagement; and it was observed that they did not behave with that ardor and impetuous valor which had hitherto marked their character.



## CHAPTER XV.

Great fire in New-York.—Battle at White Plains.—Forts in the neighborhood of New-York reduced by the British.—New-Jersey taken possession of by the British.—Sir Henry Clinton reduces Rhode-Island.—British fit a fleet on Lake Champlain.—Battle on the Lake.

**T**HE British and American armies were now not above two miles distant from each other. The former lay encamped from shore to shore, for an extent of two miles, being the breadth of the island. The Americans, who lay directly opposite, had strengthened their camp with many fortifications; at the same time being masters of all the passes and defiles betwixt the two camps, they were enabled to defend themselves against an army much more numerous than their own; and they had also strongly fortified a pass called King's Bridge, whence they could secure a passage to the continent in case of any misfortune.

Here Gen. Washington, in order to inure his army to actual service, and at the same time to annoy the enemy as much as possible, employed his troops in continual skirmishes; by which it was observed that they soon recovered their spirits, and behaved with their usual boldness.

As the situation of the two armies was now highly inconvenient for the British generals, it was resolved to make such movements as might oblige Gen. Washington to relinquish his strong situation. The possession of New-York had been less beneficial than was expected. A few days after it was evacuated by the Americans, a dreadful fire broke out, occasioned, probably,

by the licentious conduct of some of its new masters ; and, had it not been for the active exertions of the sailors and soldiery, the whole town might have been consumed, the wind being high, and the weather remarkably dry. About one thousand houses were destroyed.

Gen. Howe, having left Lord Percy with a sufficient force to garrison New-York, embarked his army in flat bottomed boats, by which they were conveyed through the dangerous passage called Hell-Gate, and landed near the town of West-Chester, lying on the continent towards Connecticut. Here, having received a supply of men and provisions, they moved to New-Rochelle, situated on the sound which separates Long Island from the continent.

After this, receiving still fresh reinforcements, they made such movements as threatened to distress the Americans very much, by cutting off their convoys of provisions from Connecticut, and thus force them to an engagement. This, however, Gen. Washington determined at all events to avoid. He therefore extended his forces into a long line, opposite to the way in which the enemy marched, keeping the Bruna, a river of considerable magnitude, between the two armies, with the North River on his rear.

Here, again, the Americans continued for some time to annoy and skirmish with the royal army, until at last, by some other manouvres, the British general found means to attack them advantageously, at a place called the White Plains, and drove them from some of their posts. The success on this occasion was much less complete than the former ; however, it obliged the Americans once more to shift their ground, and to retreat farther up the country.

Gen. Howe pursued for some time ; but at last, finding all his endeavors vain, to bring the Americans to a pitched battle, he determined to give over such an useless chace, and employ himself in reducing the forts which the Americans still retained in the neighborhood

of New-York. In this, he met with the most complete success.

The Americans, on the approach of the British forces, retreated from King's Bridge to Fort Washington ; and this, as well as Fort Lee, which lay in the neighborhood, was quickly reduced, though the garrisons made their escape. Thus the Jerseys were laid entirely open to the incursions of the British troops ; and so fully were these provinces taken possession of by the royal army, that its winter quarters extended from New-Brunswick to the river Delaware. Had any number of boats been at hand, it was thought Philadelphia would now have fallen into their hands. All these, however, had been carefully removed by the Americans.

In lieu of this enterprize, Sir Henry Clinton undertook an expedition to Rhode-Island, and became master of it, without losing a man. His expedition was also attended with this further advantage, that the American fleet, under Com. Hopkins, was obliged to sail as far as possible up the river Providence, and thus remained entirely useless.

The same ill success continued to attend the Americans in other parts. After their expulsion from Canada, they had crossed Lake Champlain, and taken up their quarters at Crown-Point, as we have already mentioned. Here they remained for some time in safety, as the British had no vessels on the lake, and consequently Gen. Burgoyne could not pursue them.

To remedy this deficiency, there was no possible method, but either to construct vessels on the spot, or take to pieces some vessels already constructed, and drag them up the river into the lake. This, however, was effected in no longer a period than three months ; and the British general, after incredible toil and difficulty, saw himself in possession of a great number of vessels, by which means he was enabled to pursue his enemies, and invade them in his turn.

The labor undergone at this time, by the sea and land forces, must indeed have been prodigious ; since

there were conveyed over land, and dragged up the rapids of the Sorel, no fewer than thirty large long-boats, four hundred batteaux, besides a vast number of flat bottomed boats, and a gondola of thirty tons.

The intent of the expedition was to push forward, before winter, to Albany, where the army would take up its winter quarters, and the next spring effect a junction with that under Gen. Howe, when it was not doubted that the united force and skill of these two commanders would speedily put a termination to the war.

By reason of the difficulties with which the equipment of this fleet had been attended, it was the beginning of October before the expedition could be undertaken. It was, however, by every judge, allowed to be completely able to answer every purpose for which it was intended. It consisted of one large vessel with three masts, carrying eighteen twelve-pounders ; two schooners, the one carrying fourteen, the other twelve six-pounders ; a large flat bottomed radeau, with six twenty-four, and six twelve-pounders ; and a gondola with eight nine-pounders.

Besides these, there were twenty vessels of a smaller size, called gun-boats, carrying each a piece of brass ordnance from nine to twenty-four-pounders, or howitzers. Several long-boats were fitted out in the same manner ; and besides all these, there was a vast number of boats and tenders of various sizes, to be used as transports for the troops and baggage. It was manned by a number of select seamen, and the guns were to be served by a detachment from the corps of artillery ; the officers and soldiers appointed for this expedition were also chosen out of the whole army.

To oppose this formidable armament, the Americans had only a very inconsiderable force, commanded by Gen. Arnold ; who, after engaging a part of the British fleet for a whole day, took advantage of the darkness of the night to set sail without being perceived, and next morning was out of sight. But he was so hotly pursu-

ed by the British, that on the second day after, he was overtaken, and forced to a second engagement.

In this, he behaved with great gallantry ; but his force being very inferior to that of the enemy, he was obliged to run his ships on shore, and set them on fire. A few only escaped to Lake George ; and the garrison of Crown-Point, having destroyed and carried off every thing of value, retired to Ticonderoga. Thither Gen. Carleton intended to have pursued them ; but the difficulties he had to encounter, appeared so many and so great, that it was thought proper to march back into Canada, and desist from any further operations till the next spring.



## CHAPTER XVI.

Decrease of the American army.—Gen. Lee taken prisoner.—British defeated at Trenton, and the tide of war turned in favor of America.—Retreat of the Americans from Trenton.—Party of British defeated at Princeton.—Fall of Gen. Mercer.—Danbury, Conn. burnt.—Gen. Wooster killed.—Sag-Harbor taken by the Americans.—British Gen. Prescott taken prisoner.—Battle at Brandywine creek.—Marquis de la Fayette wounded.

**T**HUS the affairs of the Americans seemed every where going to wreck. Even those who had been most sanguine in their cause, began to waver. The time, also, for which the soldiers had enlisted themselves, was now expired ; and the bad success of the preceding campaign had been so very discouraging, that no person was willing to engage himself during the continuance of a war, of which the event seemed to be so doubtful.

In consequence of this, therefore, Gen. Washington found his army daily decreasing in strength ; so that, from thirty thousand men, of which it consisted when Gen. Howe landed on Staten Island, scarce a tenth part could now be mustered.

To assist the commander-in-chief as much as possi-

ble, Gen. Lee had collected a body of forces in the north ; but on his way southward, having imprudently taken up his lodging at some distance from his troops, information was given to Col. Harcourt, who happened at that time to be in the neighborhood, and Lee was made prisoner.

The loss of this general was much regretted, and the more especially as he was of superior quality to any prisoner in the possession of the Americans, and could not therefore be exchanged. Six field officers were offered in exchange for him, and refused ; and the congress was highly irritated at its being reported, that he was to be treated as a deserter—having been a half-pay officer in the British service, at the commencement of the war.

In consequence of this, congress issued a proclamation, threatening to retaliate on the prisoners in their possession, whatever punishment should be inflicted on any of those taken by the British ; and especially, that their conduct should be regulated by the treatment of Gen. Lee.

In the mean time, they proceeded with the most indefatigable diligence to recruit their army, and bound their soldiers to serve for a term of three years, or during the continuance of the war. The army designed for the ensuing campaign, was to consist of eighty-eight battalions ; of which each state was to contribute its quota ; and twenty dollars were offered as a bounty to each soldier, besides an allotment of lands at the end of the war.

In this allotment, it was stipulated, that each soldier should have one hundred acres ; an ensign one hundred and fifty ; a lieutenant two hundred ; a captain three hundred ; a major four hundred ; a lieutenant-colonel four hundred and fifty ; and a colonel five hundred.—No lands were promised to those who enlisted for only three years. All officers or soldiers disabled through wounds received in the service, were to enjoy half pay during life. To defray the expense, congress borrow-



ed five millions of dollars, at five per cent., for the payment of which, the United States became surety.

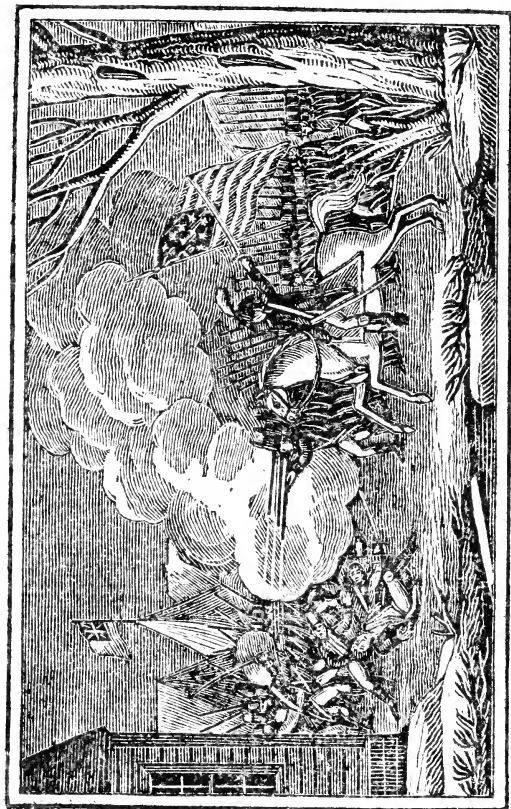
At the same time, in order to animate the people to vigorous exertions, a declaration was published, in which they set forth the necessity there was for taking proper methods to insure success in their cause. They endeavored to palliate, as much as possible, the misfortunes which had already happened; and represented the true cause of the present distress to be the short term of enlistment.

This declaration, together with the imminent danger of Philadelphia, determined the Americans to exert themselves to the utmost, in order to reinforce Gen. Washington's army. They soon received farther encouragement, however, by an exploit of that general against the Hessians.

As the royal army extended in different cantonments for a great way, Gen. Washington, perceiving the imminent danger to which Philadelphia was exposed, resolved to make some attempt on those divisions of the enemy which lay nearest that city. These happened to be the Hessians, who lay in three divisions, the last only twenty miles distant from Philadelphia.

On the 25th of December, having collected as considerable a force as he could, he set out with an intent to surprize that body of the enemy which lay encamped at Trenton. His army was divided into three bodies; one of which he ordered to cross the Delaware at Trenton ferry, a little below the town; the second at a good distance below, at a place called Bordentown, where the second division of Hessians was placed; while he himself, with the third, directed his course to a ferry some miles above Trenton, intending to have passed it at midnight, and attack the Hessians at break of day. But, by reason of various impediments, it was eight in the morning before he could reach the place of his destination.

The enemy, however, did not perceive his approach, till they were suddenly attacked. Col. Ralle, who commanded them, did all that could be expected from



BATTLE AT TRENTON—Dec. 26, 1776.

a brave and experienced officer ; but every thing was in such confusion, that no efforts of valor or skill could now retrieve matters. The colonel himself was mortally wounded ; his troops were entirely broken, their artillery seized, and about one thousand taken prisoners. After this gallant exploit, Gen. Washington again returned into Pennsylvania.

This action, though seemingly of no very decisive nature, was sufficient at that time to turn the fortune of war in favor of America. It tended greatly to lessen the apprehensions which the Americans had of the Hessians, at the same time that it equally abated the confidence which the British had till now put in them.

Reinforcements came in from several quarters to Gen. Washington, so that he was soon in a condition once more to pass the Delaware, and take up his quarters at Trenton, where he was emboldened to maintain his station, notwithstanding the accounts that were received of the enemy's rapid advance towards him.— Lord Cornwallis accordingly made his appearance in full force ; and on the evening of his arrival, the little town of Trenton contained the two hostile armies, separated only by a small creek, which was fordable in many places.

This was, indeed, the crisis of the American revolution ; and had his lordship made an immediate attack, in pursuance of what is reported to have been the advice of Sir William Erskine, Gen. Washington's defeat seems to have been inevitable.—But a night's delay turned the fate of the war, and produced an enterprize, the magnitude and glory of which, can only be equalled by its success.

Gen. Washington, having called a council of war, stated the calamitous situation to which his army was reduced ; and having heard the various opinions of his officers, finally proposed a circuitous march to Princeton, as the means of avoiding, at once, the imputation of a retreat, and the danger of a battle, with numbers so inferior, and in a situation so ineligible. The idea was unanimously approved ; and, as soon as it was dark,

the necessary measures were taken for accomplishing it.

A line of fires was kindled, which served to give light to the Americans, while it obscured them from the observation of the enemy ; and, by a providential interposition, the weather, which had been for some time past warm, moist, and foggy, suddenly changed to a hard frost ; and, in a moment, as it were, rendered the road, which had been deep and heavy, firm and smooth as a pavement.

At break of day, Gen. Washington arriving near Princeton, was discovered by a party of British troops, consisting of three regiments, under the command of Col. Mawhood, who were on their march to Trenton. With these the centre of the Americans engaged, and after killing sixty, wounding many, and taking three hundred prisoners, obliged the rest to make a precipitate escape, some towards Trenton, and others in a retrograde route to New-Brunswick. The loss of the Americans was inconsiderable in point of numbers ; but the fall of the amiable Gen. Mercer, rendered it important.

The British, astonished and discouraged at the success and spirit of these repeated enterprizes, abandoning both Trenton and Princeton, retreated to New-Brunswick ; while the triumphant Americans retired to Morristown. Gen. Washington, however, omitted no opportunity of recovering what had been lost ; and by dividing his army into small parties, which could be re-united on a few hours warning, he in a manner entirely covered the country with it, and re-possessioned himself of all the important places.

Thus ended the campaign of 1776, with scarce any other real advantages to the British, than the acquisition of the city of New-York, and of a few fortresses in its neighborhood ; where the troops were constrained to act with as much circumspection as if they had been besieged by a victorious army, instead of being themselves the conquerors.

The army at New-York began in 1777 to exercise a

kind of predatory war, by sending out parties to destroy magazines, make incursions, and take or destroy such forts as lay on the banks of rivers, to which their great command of shipping gave them access. In this they were generally successful: the magazines at Peek's Kill, (a place about fifty miles distant from New-York,) were destroyed, the town of Danbury, in Connecticut, burnt, and that of Ridgefield, in the same state, was taken possession of.

In returning from the last expedition, however, the British were greatly harrassed by the Americans under Generals Arnold, Wooster, and Sullivan; but they made good their retreat, in spite of all opposition, with the loss of only one hundred and seventy killed and wounded. On the American side, the loss was much greater; Gen. Wooster was killed, and Arnold in the most imminent danger. On the other hand, the Americans destroyed the stores at Sag-Harbor, on Long Island, and made prisoners of all who defended the place.

As this method of making war, however, could answer but little purpose, and savored more of the barbarous incursions of savages, than of a war carried on by a civilized people, it was resolved to make an attempt on Philadelphia. At first, it was thought that this could be done through New-Jersey; but the cruelties exercised by the British plundering parties had excited so general an abhorrence, and Gen. Washington had received such large reinforcements, and posted himself so strongly, that it was found to be impracticable. Many stratagems were used to draw him from his strong situation, but without success; so that it was found necessary to make the attempt on Philadelphia by sea.

While the preparations necessary for this expedition were going forward, the Americans found means to make amends for the capture of Gen. Lee, by that of Gen. Prescott, who was seized in his quarters, with his aid-de-camp, in much the same manner as Gen. Lee had been. This was exceedingly mortifying to the general himself, as he had not long before set a price upon Gen. Arnold, by offering a sum of money to any one that ap-

prehended him ; which the latter answered, by setting a lower price upon Gen. Prescott.

The month of July was far advanced before the preparations for the expedition against Philadelphia were completed ; and it was the 23d before the fleet was able to sail from Sandy Hook. The force employed in this expedition consisted of thirty-six battalions of British and Hessians, a regiment of light horse, and a body of royalists raised at New-York. The remainder of these, with seventeen battalions, and another body of light-horse, were stationed at New-York, under Sir Henry Clinton. Seven battalions were also stationed at Rhode-Island.

After a week's sailing the expedition arrived at the mouth of the Delaware ; but having there received certain intelligence that the navigation of the river was so effectually obstructed that no possibility of forcing a passage remained, and that Gen. Washington had marched within a short distance of Philadelphia, it was resolved to proceed as far to the south as Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, from whence the distance to Philadelphia was not very great, and where the American army would find less advantage from the nature of the country than in the Jerseys.

The navigation from the Delaware to the Chesapeake took up the best part of the month of August, and that up the bay itself was extremely difficult and tedious. At last, having sailed up the river Elk as far as was practicable, the troops were landed without opposition, and set forward on their intended expedition.

On receiving news of the arrival of the enemy in the Chesapeake, Gen. Washington left New-Jersey and hastened to the relief of Philadelphia ; and in the beginning of September he met the royal army at Brandywine Creek, about mid-day, between the head of the Elk and Philadelphia. Here he adhered to his former method of skirmishing and harassing the royal army on its march ; but as this proved insufficient to stop its progress, he retired to that side of the creek

next to Philadelphia, with an intent to dispute the passage.

This brought on a general engagement, which took place on the 11th of September, in which the Americans were worsted; and it was, perhaps, only by the approach of night, that they were saved from being entirely destroyed. On this occasion the Americans lost about one thousand men in killed and wounded, besides four hundred taken prisoners.

Here the celebrated Marquis de la Fayette first bled in the cause of liberty, which he had espoused with enthusiastic ardor: This brave and generous French nobleman, who had left his family and native land, in spite of the prohibition of his own government, and the prospect of a forfeiture of his title and estates, and had entered the American army, as a volunteer, without compensation, received from congress, in June, 1777, (when only twenty years of age,) the commission of a major-general; and his gallant conduct in the engagement at Brandywine, and subsequently throughout the war, proved him worthy of the confidence thus placed in him. Gen. La Fayette's wound, though slight, endeared him to the hearts of all the Americans.



## CHAPTER XVII.

Philadelphia taken by the British.—Battle at Germantown.—

Destruction of two British ships of war.—Americans abandon Mud Island and Red Bank.—Gen. Burgoyne's army reinforced.

—Siege of Ticonderoga.—Disaster of the Americans near Skeenesborough.—Americans retire to Fort Edward.—British

army approaches Fort Edward.—Head-quarters of the American army formed at Saratoga.—Gen. Arnold takes station at

Stillwater.—Col. St. Leger besieges Fort Stanwix; is deserted by the Indians; and retreats with loss.

**T**HE loss of the battle at Brandywine proved also the loss of Philadelphia. Gen. Washington retired towards Lancaster, an inland town some distance from

Philadelphia; and although he could not prevent the enemy from taking possession of Philadelphia, he still adhered to his former plan of distressing them, by laying ambushes and cutting off detached parties.— But in this he was less successful than formerly; and one of his detachments, which lay in ambush in a wood, were themselves surprized and entirely defeated, with the loss of three hundred men killed and wounded, besides seventy or eighty taken prisoners, with all their arms and baggage.

General Howe, now perceiving that the Americans would not venture another battle, even for the sake of their capital, took peaceable possession of it on the 26th of September. His first care was then to cut off, by means of strong batteries, the communication between the upper and lower parts of the river; which was executed, notwithstanding the opposition of some American armed vessels; one of which, carrying thirty-six guns, was taken.

His next task was to open a communication with it by sea; and this was a work of no small difficulty. A vast number of batteries and forts had been erected, and immense machines, formed like *chevaux de frize*, from whence they took their name, sunk in the river to prevent its navigation. As the fleet was sent round to the mouth of the river, in order to co-operate with the army, this work, however difficult, was accomplished; nor did the Americans give much opposition, well knowing that all places of this kind were now untenable.

Gen. Washington, however, took the advantage of the royal army being divided, to attack the principal division of it that lay at Germantown, in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. In this he met with very little success; for though he reached the place of destination by three o'clock in the morning, the patrols had time to call the troops to arms. The Americans, notwithstanding, made a very resolute attack; but they were received with so much bravery, that they were



compelled to abandon the attempt, and retreat in great disorder.

However, they were so fortunate as to carry off their cannon, (though pursued for a considerable way,) after having upwards of two hundred killed, about five hundred wounded, and upwards of four hundred taken prisoners, among whom were fifty-four officers. On the British side, the loss amounted to four hundred and thirty wounded and prisoners, and seventy killed; but among the last were Gen. Agnew and Col. Bird, with some other excellent officers.

There still remained two strong forts on the Delaware, to be reduced. These were Mud Island and Red Bank. The various obstructions which the Americans had thrown in the way, rendered it necessary to bring up the *Augusta*, a ship of the line, and the *Merlin* frigate, to the attack of Mud Island; but during the heat of the action both were grounded. Upon this, the Americans sent down four fire-ships, and directed the whole fire from their galleys against them. The former were rendered ineffectual, by the courage and skill of the British seamen; but during the engagement both the *Augusta* and *Merlin* took fire and were burnt to ashes; and the other ships obliged to withdraw.

The Americans, encouraged by this unsuccessful attempt, proceeded to throw new obstructions in the way; but the British general having found means to convey a number of cannon, and to erect batteries within gun shot of the fort by land, and bringing up three ships of the line, which mounted heavy cannon, the garrison, after making a vigorous defence for one day, perceiving that preparations were making for a general assault on the next, abandoned the place in the night. Those who defended Red Bank followed their example, and abandoned it on the approach of Lord Cornwallis.

A great number of the American shipping, now finding themselves entirely destitute of any protection, sailed up the river in the night time. Seventeen, however, remained, whose retreat was intercepted by a frigate and some armed vessels; on which the Ameri-

cans ran them ashore and burnt them, to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands.

Thus the campaign of 1777, in Pennsylvania, concluded, upon the whole, successfully on the part of the British. In the north, however, matters wore a different aspect. The expedition in that quarter had been projected by the British ministry as the most effectual method that could be taken to crush the states at once. The four New-England states had originally begun the confederacy against Great Britain, and were still considered as the most active in the continuation of it; and it was thought, that any impression made upon them, would contribute in an effectual manner to the reduction of all the rest.

For this purpose, an army of four thousand chosen British troops, and three thousand Germans, were put under the command of Gen. Burgoyne; Gen. Carleton was directed to use his interest with the Indians, to persuade them to join in this expedition; and the province of Quebec was to furnish large parties to join in the same.

The officers who commanded under Gen. Burgoyne, were, Gen. Phillips of the artillery, Generals Fraser, Powell, and Hamilton, with the German officers, Generals Reidesel and Specht. The soldiers were all excellently disciplined, and had been kept in their winter quarters with all imaginable care, in order to prepare them for the expedition on which they were going.

To aid the principal expedition, another was projected on the Mohawk river, under Col. St. Leger, who was to be assisted by Sir John Johnson, son of the famous Sir William Johnson, who had so greatly distinguished himself in the war of 1755.

On the 21st of June, 1777, the army encamped on the western side of Lake Champlain; where, being joined by a considerable body of Indians, Gen. Burgoyne made a speech, in which, it is said, he exhorted these new allies, but ineffectually, to lay aside their ferocious and barbarous manner of making war; to kill only such as opposed them in arms; and to spare pris-

oners, with such women and children as should fall into their hands. After issuing a proclamation, in which the force of Britain, and that which he commanded, was set forth in very ostentatious terms, the campaign opened with the siege of Ticonderoga.

The place was very strong, and garrisoned by six thousand men, under Gen. Sinclair; nevertheless, the works were so extensive, that even this number was scarcely sufficient to defend them properly. They had therefore omitted to fortify a rugged eminence called Mount Defiance, the top of which overlooked, and effectually commanded the whole works; imagining, perhaps, that the difficulty of the ascent would be sufficient to prevent the enemy from taking possession of it.

On the approach of the first division of the British, the Americans abandoned and set fire to their outworks; and so expeditious were the British troops, that by the 5th of July, every post was secured, which was judged necessary for investing it completely. A road was soon after made to the very summit of that eminence which the Americans had supposed could not be ascended; and so much were they now disheartened, that they instantly abandoned the fort entirely, taking the road to Skeenesborough, a place at the head of Lake Champlain; while their baggage, with what artillery and military stores they could carry off, were sent to the same place by water.

But the British generals were determined not to let them pass so easily. Both were pursued, and both overtaken. Their armed vessels consisted only of five galleys; two of which were taken, and three blown up; on which they set fire to their boats and fortifications at Skeenesborough. On this occasion, the Americans lost two hundred boats, one hundred and thirty pieces of cannon, together with all their provisions and baggage.

The American land forces, under Col. Francis, made a brave defence against Gen. Fraser; and, superior in number, had almost overpowered him, when Gen.

Reidesel, with a large body of Germans, came to his assistance. The Americans were now overpowered in their turn ; and their commander being killed, they fled on all sides with great precipitation. In this action, two hundred Americans were killed, and as many taken prisoners, and above six hundred wounded, many of whom perished in the woods for want of assistance.

During the engagement, Gen. Sinclair was at Castleton, about ten miles from the place ; but, instead of going forward to Fort Ann, the next place of strength, he repaired to the woods which lie between that fortress and New-England. Gen. Burgoyne, however, detached Col. Hill, with the ninth regiment, in order to intercept such as should attempt to retreat towards Fort Ann.

On his way, he met with a body of Americans, said to be six times as numerous as his own ; but after an engagement of three hours, they were obliged to retire with great loss. After so many disasters, despairing of being able to make any stand at Fort Ann, they set fire to it, and retired to Fort Edward. In all these engagements, the killed and wounded in the British army did not exceed two hundred men.

Gen. Burgoyne was now obliged to suspend his operations for some time, and wait at Skeenesborough for the arrival of his tents, provisions, &c. but employed this interval in making roads through the country about Fort Ann, and in clearing a passage for his troops to proceed against the enemy. This was attended with incredible toil ; but all obstacles were surmounted with equal patience and resolution by the army.

In short, after undergoing the utmost difficulty that could be undergone, and making every exertion that man could make, he arrived with his army before Fort Edward, about the end of July. Here Gen. Schuyler had been for some time endeavoring to recruit the shattered American forces, and had been joined by Gen. Sinclair, with the remains of his army ; the garrison of Fort George also, situated on the lake of that name, had evacuated the place, and retired to Fort Edward.

But on the approach of the royal army, the Americans retired from Fort Edward also, and formed their head quarters at Saratoga. Notwithstanding the great successes of the British general, they showed not the least disposition to submit, but seemed only to consider how they might make the most effectual resistance.—For this purpose, the militia was every where raised, and draughted to join the army at Saratoga ; and such numbers of volunteers were daily added, that they soon began to recover from the alarm into which they had been thrown.

That they might have a commander whose abilities could be relied on, Gen. Arnold was appointed, who repaired to Saratoga with a considerable train of artillery ; but receiving intelligence that Col. St. Leger was proceeding with great rapidity in his expedition on the Mohawk river, he removed to Stillwater, about half way between Saratoga and the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers.

The colonel, in the mean time, had advanced as far as Fort Stanwix ; the siege of which he pressed with great vigor. On the 6th of August, understanding that a supply of provisions, escorted by eight or nine hundred men, was on the way to the fort, he dispatched Sir John Johnson, with a strong detachment, to intercept it. This he did so effectually, that, besides intercepting the provisions, four hundred of its guard were slain, two hundred taken, and the rest escaped with great difficulty.

The garrison, however, were not to be intimidated by this disaster, nor by the threats or representations of the colonel ; on the contrary, they made several successful sallies under Col. Willet, the second in command ; and this gentleman, in company with another, even ventured out of the fort, and, eluding the vigilance of the enemy, passed through them, in order to hasten the march of Gen. Arnold to their assistance.

Thus the affairs of Col. St. Leger seemed to be in no very favorable situation, notwithstanding his late success, and they were soon totally ruined by the deser-

tion of the Indians. They had been alarmed by the report of Gen. Arnold's advancing with two thousand men to the relief of the fort; and while the colonel was attempting to give them encouragement, another report was spread, that Gen. Burgoyne had been defeated with great slaughter, and was now flying before the Americans. On this he was obliged to do as they thought proper; and the retreat could not be effected without the loss of the tents, and some of the artillery and military stores.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

Gen. Burgoyne determines on reducing Bennington.—Brave defence of that place by the Americans under Gen. Stark.—British army encamp near Saratoga, and are attacked and beaten by the Americans.—Gen. Fraser killed.—Gen. Arnold wounded.—Col. Breyman killed.—The Germans defeated with great slaughter.—Distress of the British army, for want of provisions, &c.—Gen. Burgoyne surrenders to Gen. Gates, by capitulation.—American works on the North river destroyed by Gen. Clinton.—Esopus burnt.

**GENERAL** Burgoyne, in the mean time, notwithstanding the difficulties he had already sustained, found that he must still encounter more. The roads he had made, with so much labor and pains, were destroyed, either by the wetness of the season, or by the enemy, so that the provisions he had brought from Fort George could not arrive at his camp without the most prodigious toil.

On hearing of the siege of Fort Stanwix, by Col. St. Leger, the general determined to move forward, in hopes of enclosing the Americans between his own army and that of St. Leger, or of obtaining the command of all the country between Fort Stanwix and Albany, and forming a junction with Col. St. Leger, which could not but be attended with the most happy consequences. The only difficulty in the way of this project appeared to be the want of provisions; and to

remedy this, Gen. Burgoyne proposed to reduce the American magazines at Bennington.

For this purpose, Col. Baum, a German officer of great bravery, was dispatched with a body of five hundred men. The place was about twenty miles to the eastward of Hudson's river; and to support Col. Baum's party, the whole army marched up the river's bank, and encamped almost opposite to Saratoga, with the river betwixt it and that place. An advanced party was posted at Batten-Kill, between the camp and Bennington, in order to support Col. Baum. In their way the British seized a large supply of cattle and provisions, which were immediately sent to the camp, but the badness of the roads retarded their march so much, that intelligence of their design reached Bennington, where the Americans were collected in considerable force under Gen. Stark.

Understanding now that the American force was greatly superior to his own, Col. Baum acquainted Gen. Burgoyne, who immediately despatched Col. Breyman with a party to his assistance; but, through the same causes that had retarded the march of Col. Baum, this assistance could not arrive in time.

Gen. Stark, in the mean time, determined to attack the two parties separately; and for this purpose advanced against Col. Baum, whom he surrounded on all sides, and attacked with the utmost violence. The troops defended themselves with great valor, but were to a man either killed or taken.

Col. Breyman, after a desperate engagement, had the good fortune to effect a retreat through the darkness of the night, which otherwise he could not have done, as his men had expended all their ammunition—being forty rounds to each.

Gen. Burgoyne, thus disappointed in his attempt on Bennington, applied himself with indefatigable diligence to procure provisions from Fort George; and having at length amassed a sufficient quantity to last for a month, he threw a bridge of boats over the river Hudson.

which he crossed about the middle of September, encamping on the hills and plains near Saratoga.

As soon as he approached the American army, at this time encamped at Stillwater under Gen. Gates, he determined to make an attack ; for which purpose he put himself at the head of the central division of his army, having Gen. Fraser and Col. Breyman on the right, with Generals Reidesel and Phillips on the left.

In this position, he advanced towards the Americans on the 19th of September. But the Americans did not wait to be attacked : on the contrary, they attacked the central division with the utmost violence ; and it was not until Gen. Phillips came up with the artillery, and at eleven o'clock at night, that they could be induced to retire to their camp.

On this occasion, the British lost about five hundred in killed and wounded, and the Americans about three hundred and nineteen. The former were very much alarmed at the obstinate resolution shown by the Americans ; but this did not prevent them from advancing towards their enemy, and posting themselves the next day within cannon shot of their lines. But their allies, the Indians, began to desert in great numbers.

At the same time Gen. Burgoyne was in the highest degree mortified at receiving no intelligence of any assistance from Sir Henry Clinton, as had been stipulated. He now received a letter from him, by which he was informed, that Sir Henry intended to make a diversion on the North river in his favor. This afforded but little comfort ; however, he returned an answer by several trusty persons, whom he dispatched different ways, stating his present distressed situation, and mentioning that the provisions and other necessaries he had would only enable him to hold out till the 12th of October.

In the mean time, the Americans, in order to cut off the retreat of the British army in the most effectual manner, undertook an expedition against Ticonderoga ; but were obliged to abandon the enterprize, after having surprized all the outposts, and taken a great num-



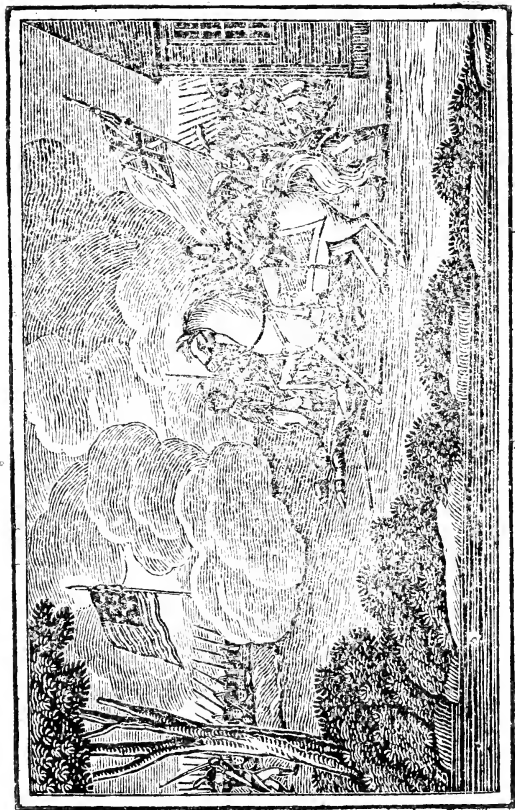
ber of boats, with some armed vessels, and a number of prisoners.

The army under Gen. Burgoyne, however, continued to labor under the greatest distresses ; so that in the beginning of October he had been obliged to diminish the soldiers' allowance. On the 7th of that month, he determined to move towards the enemy. For this purpose he sent a body of fifteen hundred men to reconnoitre their left wing ; intending, if possible, to break through it, in order to effect a retreat. The detachment, however, had not proceeded far, when a dreadful attack was made upon the left wing of the British army, which was with great difficulty preserved from being entirely broken, by a reinforcement brought up by Gen. Fraser, who was killed in the attack.

After the troops had, with the most desperate efforts, regained their camp, it was most furiously assaulted by Gen. Arnold, who, notwithstanding all opposition, would have forced the entrenchments, had he not received a dangerous wound, which obliged him to retire. Thus the attack failed on the left ; but on the right the camp of the German reserve was forced, Col. Breyman killed, and his countrymen defeated with great slaughter, and the loss of all their artillery and baggage.

This was by far the heaviest loss the British army had sustained since the action at Bunker's Hill. The list of killed and wounded amounted to near twelve hundred, exclusive of the Germans ; but the greatest misfortune was, that the Americans had now an opening on the right and rear of the British forces, so that the army was threatened with entire destruction.

This obliged Gen. Burgoyne once more to shift his position, that the Americans might also be obliged to alter theirs. This was accomplished on the night of the 7th, without any loss, and all the next day he continued to offer the Americans battle ; but they were now too well assured of obtaining a complete victory, by cutting off all supplies from the British, to risk a pitched battle. Wherefore they advanced on the right



BATTLE AT SARATOGA, AND FALL OF GEN. FRASER—OCT. 7, 1777

side, in order to enclose him entirely ; which obliged the general to direct a retreat towards Saratoga.

But the Americans had now stationed a great force on the ford at Hudson's river, so that the only possible retreat was by securing a passage to Lake George ; and to effect this, a body of workmen were detached, with a strong guard, to repair the roads and bridges that led to Fort Edward. As soon as they were gone, however, the Americans seemed to prepare for an attack ; which rendered it necessary to recal the guard, and the workmen being of course left exposed, could not proceed.

In the mean time, the boats which conveyed provisions down the river, were exposed to the continual fire of the American marksmen, who took many of them ; so that it became necessary to convey the provisions over land. In this extreme danger, it was resolved to march by night to Fort Edward, forcing the passages at the fords, either above or below the place.

In order to effect this the more easily, it was resolved, that the soldiers should carry their provisions on their backs, leaving behind their baggage, and every other incumbrance. But before this could be executed, intelligence was received that the Americans had raised strong entrenchments opposite to these fords, well provided with cannon, and that they had likewise taken possession of the rising ground between Fort George and Fort Edward, which in like manner was provided with cannon.

All this time the American army was increasing, by the continual arrival of militia and volunteers from all parts. Their parties extended all along the opposite bank of the river, and some had even passed it, in order to observe the least movement of the British army. The whole force under Gen. Gates was computed to amount to sixteen thousand men, while the army under Gen. Burgoyne scarce amounted to six thousand ; and every part of the camp was reached by the grape and rifle shot of the Americans, besides a discharge from their artillery, which was almost incessant.

In this state of extreme distress and danger, the British army continued with the greatest constancy and perseverance, till the evening of the 13th of October, when an inventory of provisions being taken, it was found that no more remained than was sufficient to serve for three days ; and a council of war being called, it was unanimously determined, that there was no method now remaining but to treat with the Americans. In consequence of this, a negotiation was opened the next day, which speedily terminated in the capitulation of the whole British army ; the principal article of which was, that the troops were to have a free passage to Britain, on condition of not serving against America during the war.

On this occasion, Gen. Gates, with a generous magnanimity, ordered his army to keep within their camp, while the British soldiers went to a place appointed for them to lay down their arms, that the latter might not have the additional mortification of being made spectacles on so melancholy an event.

The number of those who surrendered at Saratoga, amounted to five thousand seven hundred and fifty, according to the American accounts ; the list of sick and wounded left in the camp, when the army retreated to Saratoga, to five hundred and twenty-eight ; and the number of those lost by other accidents, since the taking of Ticonderoga, to near three thousand. Thirty-five brass field-pieces, seven thousand stand of arms, clothing for an equal number of soldiers, with the tents, military chest, &c. constituted the booty on this occasion.

Sir Henry Clinton, in the mean time, had sailed up the North river, and destroyed the two forts called Montgomery and Clinton, with Fort Constitution, and another place called Continental Village, where were barracks for two thousand men. Seventy large cannon were carried away, besides a number of smaller artillery, and a great quantity of stores and ammunition ; a large boom and chain, reaching across the river from Fort Montgomery to a point of land called St.

Anthony's Nose, and which cost not less than 7000*l.* sterling, were partly destroyed, and partly carried away, as was also another boom of little less value, at Fort Constitution. The loss of the British army was but small in number, though some officers of great merit were killed in the different attacks.

Another attack was made by Sir James Wallace, with some frigates, and a body of land forces under Gen. Vaughan. The place which now suffered was named Esopus. The fortifications were destroyed, and the town itself was wantonly reduced to ashes, as Continental Village had been before.

But these successes, of whatever importance they might be, were now disregarded by both parties. They served only to irritate the Americans, flushed with their success; and they were utterly insufficient to raise the spirits of the British, who were now thrown into the utmost dismay.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

Treaty with France.—Favorable disposition of European powers.—Gov. Johnstone attempts to bribe members of congress.—Evacuation of Philadelphia.—Battle at Freehold.—Gen. Lee tried for disobedience of orders, and suspended from his command.—Count d'Estaing arrives with a fleet and troops from France.—Expedition against Rhode-Island.—Destruction of American vessels, magazines, &c. at Buzzard's Bay.—Capture of sheep and cattle at Martha's Vineyard.—American cavalry defeated on the North River.—Little Egg Harbor reduced by the British.—Pulaski's legion surprized, and put to the sword.

ON the 16th of March, 1778, Lord North intimated to the house of commons, that a paper had been laid before the king by the French ambassador, intimating the conclusion of an alliance between the court of France and the United States of America. The preliminaries of this treaty had been concluded in the end of the year 1777, and a copy of them sent to congress, in order to counteract any proposals that might be made

in the mean time by the British ministry. On the 6th of February, 1778, the articles were formally signed, to the great satisfaction of the French nation. They were in substance as follows :

1. If Great Britain should, in consequence of this treaty, proceed to hostilities against France, the two nations should mutually assist one another.

2. The main end of the treaty was, in an effectual manner to maintain the independence of America.

3. Should those places of North-America still subject to Britain, be reduced by the states, they should be confederated with them, or subjected to their jurisdiction.

4. Should any of the West-India islands be reduced by France, they should be deemed its property.

5. No formal treaty with Great Britain should be concluded, either by France or America, without the consent of each other ; and it was mutually agreed, that they should not lay down their arms till the independence of the states had been formally acknowledged.

6. The contracting parties mutually agreed, to invite those powers that had received injuries from Great Britain, to join in the common cause.

7. The United States guaranteed to France all the possessions in the West-Indies which she should conquer ; and France, in her turn, guaranteed the absolute independence of the states, and their supreme authority over every country they possessed, or might acquire during the war.

The notification of such a treaty as this could not but be looked upon as a declaration of war. On its being announced to the house, every one agreed in an address to his majesty, promising to stand by him to the utmost in the present emergency ; but it was warmly contended by the members in opposition, that the present ministry ought to be removed, on account of their numberless blunders and miscarriages in every instance.

Many were of opinion, that the only way to extricate the nation from its trouble, was to acknowledge the independence of America at once ; and thus they might

still do with a good grace, what must inevitably be done at last, after expending much more blood and treasure than had yet been lavished in this unhappy contest.

The ministerial party, however, entertained different ideas. Instigated by zeal for the national honor, it was determined at once to resent the arrogance of France, and prosecute hostilities against America with more vigor than ever, should the terms now offered them be rejected.

The Americans, in the mean time, assiduously employed their agents at the courts of Spain, Vienna, Prussia, and Tuscany, in order, if possible, to conclude alliances with them, or at least to procure an acknowledgement of their independence. As it had been reported that Britain intended to apply to Russia for assistance, the American commissioners were enjoined to use their utmost influence with the German princes, to prevent such auxiliaries from marching through their territories, and to endeavor to procure the recal of the German troops already sent to America.

To France they offered a cession of such West-India islands as should be taken by the united strength of France and America; and should Britain, by their joint endeavors, be dispossessed of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and Nova Scotia, these territories should be divided betwixt the two nations, and Great Britain be totally excluded from the fishery.

The proposals made to the Spanish court were, that in case they should think proper to espouse their quarrel, the American states should assist in reducing Pensacola under the dominion of Spain, provided their citizens were allowed the free navigation of the river Mississippi, and the use of the harbor of Pensacola; and they further offered, that, if agreeable to Spain, they would declare war against Portugal, should that power expel the American ships from its ports.

In the mean time, the troops under Gen. Burgoyne were preparing to embark for England, agreeably to the articles of capitulation at Saratoga; but congress, having received information that many articles of am-

munition and accoutrements had not been surrendered agreeably to the stipulated terms, and finding some cause to apprehend that sinister designs were harbored on the part of Great Britain, to convey these troops to join the army at Philadelphia or New-York, positively refused to let them embark, until an explicit ratification of the convention should be properly notified by the British court.

The season for action was now approaching ; and congress was indefatigable in its preparations for a new campaign, which it was confidently said would be the last. Among other methods taken for this purpose, it was recommended to all young gentlemen of the states, to form themselves into bodies of cavalry, to serve at their own expense during the war. Gen. Washington, at the same time, to remove all incumbrances from his army, lightened the baggage as much as possible, by substituting sacks and portmanteaus in place of chests and boxes, and using pack horses instead of waggons.

On the other hand, the British army, expecting to be reinforced by twenty thousand men, thought of nothing but concluding the war according to their wishes before the end of the campaign. It was with the utmost concern, as well as indignation, therefore, that they received the news of Lord North's conciliatory bill. It was universally looked upon as a national disgrace ; and some even tore their cockades from their hats, and trampled them under their feet, as a token of their indignation. By the Americans it was received with indifference. The British commissioners endeavoured to make it as public as possible ; and the congress, as formerly, ordered it to be printed in all the newspapers.

On this occasion Gov. Tryon inclosed several copies of the bill to Gen. Washington in a letter, intreating that he would allow them to be circulated ; to which the general returned for answer a copy of a newspaper, in which the bill was printed, with the resolutions of congress upon it. These were, that whosoever presumed to make a separate agreement with Britain should be deemed a public enemy ; that the United States could



not with propriety keep correspondence with the commissioners until their independence was acknowledged, and the British fleets and armies removed from America.

At the same time, the states were warned not to suffer themselves to be deceived into security by any offers that might be made ; but to use their utmost endeavours to send their quotas with all diligence into the field. The individuals with whom the commissioners conversed on the subject of the conciliatory bill, generally returned for answer, that the day of reconciliation was past ; and that the haughtiness of Britain had extinguished all filial regard in the breasts of Americans.

About this time also, Mr. Silas Dean arrived from France, with two copies of the treaty of commerce and alliance to be signed by congress. Advices of the most agreeable nature were also received from various parts, representing in the most favourable light the dispositions of the European powers ; all of whom, it was said, wished to see the independence of America settled upon the most permanent basis.

Considering the situation of matters with the Americans at this time, therefore, it was no wonder that the commissioners found themselves unable to accomplish the errand on which they came. Their proposals were utterly rejected, themselves treated as spies, and, after a vain attempt by Gov. Johnstone, one of the commissioners, to bribe several members of congress, all intercourse with them was interdicted.

But before any final answer could be obtained from congress, Sir Henry Clinton had taken the resolution of evacuating Philadelphia. Accordingly, on the 10th of June, after having made all necessary preparation, the army marched out of the city, before noon, with all its baggage and other incumbrances. Gen. Washington, apprized of this design, had despatched expresses into the Jerseys, with orders to collect all the force that could be assembled, in order to obstruct the march of the enemy.

After various movements, on both sides, Sir Henry

Clinton, with the royal army, arrived at Freehold on the 27th of June, where he encamped in a very strong situation. Here Gen. Washington determined to commence an attack, as soon as the enemy should again begin its march.

The night was spent in making the necessary preparations, and Gen. Lee, with his division, was ordered to be ready by day-break. But Sir Henry Clinton, justly apprehending that the chief object of the Americans was the baggage, committed that to the care of Gen. Knyphausen, whom he ordered to set out early in the morning, while he followed with the rest of the army.

The attack was made, according to arrangements; but the British general had taken such care to arrange his troops properly, and so effectually supported his forces during the engagement, that Gen. Lee, so far from making any impression on the enemy, would himself have been totally defeated, had it not been for the timely advance of Gen. Washington with the main army. The British troops effected their retreat in the night, with the loss of three hundred men, of whom many died through mere fatigue, without the slightest wound.

In this action Gen. Lee was charged by Gen. Washington with disobedience and misconduct, in retreating before the British army. He was tried by a court-martial, and sentenced to a temporary suspension from his command.

After the arrival of the British at Sandy-Hook, a bridge of boats was, by Lord Howe's directions, thrown from thence over the channel, which separated the island from the main land, and the troops were conveyed on board the fleet; after which they sailed to New-York.

After sending some light detachments to watch the enemy's motions, Gen. Washington marched towards the North river, where a great force had been collected to join him, and where it was now expected that some very capital operations would take place.

In the mean time, France had set about her preparations for the assistance of the Americans. On the 14th of April, Count d'Estaing had sailed from Toulon, with a strong squadron of ships of the line and frigates, and arrived on the coast of Virginia in the beginning of July, while the British fleet was employed in conveying the forces from Sandy-Hook to New-York.

The French fleet consisted of one ship of twenty guns, one of eighty, six of seventy-four, and four of sixty-four, besides several large frigates; and, exclusive of its complement of sailors, had six thousand marines and soldiers on board. To oppose this force, the British had only six ships of sixty-four guns, three of fifty guns, and two of forty, with some frigates and sloops.

Notwithstanding this inferiority, however, the British admiral posted himself so advantageously, and showed such superior skill, that d'Estaing did not think proper to attack him; particularly, as the pilots informed him that it was impracticable to carry his large ships over the bar into the Hook, and Gen. Washington pressed him to sail for Newport. He therefore remained at anchor, four miles off Sandy-Hook, till the 22d of July, without effecting any thing more than the capture of some vessels, which, through ignorance of his arrival, fell in his way.

The next attempt of the French admiral, in conjunction with the Americans, was on Rhode-Island. It was proposed that d'Estaing, with the six thousand troops he had with him, should make a descent on the southern part of the island, while a body of the Americans should take possession of the north; at the same time the French squadron was to enter the harbor of Newport, and take and destroy all the British shipping.

On the 8th of August, the French admiral entered the harbor as was proposed, but found himself unable to do any material damage. Lord Howe, however, instantly set sail for Rhode-Island; and d'Estaing, confiding in his superiority, immediately came out of the

harbor to attack him. A violent storm parted the two fleets, and did so much damage that they were rendered totally unfit for action.

The French, however, suffered most; and several of their ships being afterwards attacked singly by the British, very narrowly escaped being taken. On the 20th of August, d'Estaing returned to Newport in a very shattered condition; and not thinking himself safe there, sailed two days after for Boston. Gen. Sullivan, in the mean time, had landed on the northern part of Rhode-Island, with ten thousand men.

On the 17th of August, they began their operations, by erecting batteries, and making their approaches to the British lines. But Gen. Pigot, who commanded in Newport, had taken such effectual care to secure himself on the land side, that without the assistance of a marine force it was altogether impossible to attack him with any probability of success. The conduct of d'Estaing, therefore, who had abandoned them when master of the harbor, gave the greatest disgust to the people of New-England, and Gen. Sullivan began to think of a retreat. On perceiving his intentions, the garrison sallied out upon him with so much vigor, that it was not without difficulty that he effected his retreat.

He had not been gone long, when Sir Henry Clinton arrived with a body of four thousand men; which, had they arrived sooner, would have enabled the British commander to have gained a decisive victory over him, as well as to have destroyed the town of Providence, which, by its vicinity to Rhode-Island, and the enterprizes which were continually projected and carried on in that place, kept the inhabitants of Rhode-Island in continual alarm.

The first British expedition was to Buzzard's Bay, on the coast of New-England, and in the neighborhood of Rhode-Island. Here they destroyed a great number of privateers and merchantmen, magazines, store-houses, &c. From this they proceeded to a fertile and populous island called Martha's Vineyard, from whence

they carried off ten thousand sheep, and three hundred black cattle.

Another expedition took place up the North river, under Lord Cornwallis and Gen. Knyphausen; the principal event of which was, the destruction of a regiment of American cavalry, known by the name of Washington's Light-Horse.

A third expedition was directed to Little Egg Harbor, in New-Jersey, a place noted for privateers, the destruction of which was its principal intention. It was conducted by Captains Ferguson and Collins, and ended in the destruction of the American vessels, as well as of the place itself. At the same time, part of another body of American troops, called Pulaski's legion, was surprized, and a great number of them put to the sword.

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## CHAPTER XX.

American expedition to West-Florida.—British expedition to Georgia.—Savannah taken.—Georgia in possession of the British.—Americans defeated at Briar's Creek.—British gain possession of St. James's, St. John's, and Port Royal.—Count d'Estaing sails to the West-Indies; is recalled to the United States; contemplates the recovery of Georgia; arrives off the coast, and captures several vessels.—Summons Gen. Prevost to surrender Savannah.—The town assaulted.—Count Pulaski killed.—Count d'Estaing wounded.

**I**N the beginning of this year, the Americans had projected the conquest of West-Florida; and one Capt. Willing, with a party of resolute men, had made a successful incursion into that country. This awakened the attention of the British to the southern states, and an expedition against them was determined on. Georgia was the place of destination; and, the more effectually to ensure success, Col. Campbell, with a sufficient force, under convoy of some ships of war commanded by Sir Hyde Parker, embarked at New-York; while Gen. Prevost, who commanded in East-

Florida, was directed to set out with all the force he could spare.

The armament from New-York arrived off the coast of Georgia, in the month of December; and though the Americans were very strongly posted in an advantageous situation on shore, the British troops made good their landing, and advanced towards Savannah, the capital of the state. That very day they defeated the force of the Americans which opposed them, and took possession of the town with such celerity, that the Americans had not time to execute a resolution they had taken of setting it on fire.

In ten days, the whole state of Georgia was reduced, Sunbury alone excepted; and this was also brought under subjection by Gen. Prevost, in his march northward. Every possible method was taken to secure the tranquility of the country; and rewards were offered for apprehending committee and assemblymen, or such as were judged most inimical to the British interests. On the arrival of Gen. Prevost, the command of the troops naturally devolved on him, as the senior officer; and the conquest of Carolina was next projected.

In this attempt, there was no small probability of success. The country contained a great number of friends to the British government, who now eagerly embraced the opportunity of declaring themselves; many of the inhabitants of Georgia had joined the royal standard; and there was not in the state any considerable body of American forces, capable of opposing the efforts of regular and well disciplined troops.

On the first news of Gen. Prevost's approach, the royalists assembled in a body, imagining themselves able to stand their ground until their allies should arrive; but in this they were disappointed. The Americans attacked and defeated them, with the loss of half their number. The remainder retreated into Georgia; and, after undergoing many difficulties, at last effected a junction with the British forces.

In the mean time, Gen. Lincoln, with a considerable

body of American troops, had encamped within twenty miles of the town of Savannah ; and another strong party had posted themselves at a place called Briar's Creek, farther up the river Savannah. Thus the extent of the British government was likely to be circumscribed within very narrow bounds. Gen. Prevost, therefore, determined to dislodge the party at Briar's Creek ; and the latter, trusting to their strong situation, and being remiss in their guard, suffered themselves to be surprized on the 30th of March, 1779 ; when they were utterly routed, with the loss of more than three hundred killed and taken, besides a great number drowned in the river or the swamps.

The whole artillery, stores, baggage, and almost all the arms of this unfortunate party, were taken, so that they could no more make any stand ; and thus the state of Georgia was once more freed from the Americans, and a communication opened with those places in Carolina where the royalists chiefly resided.

The victory at Briar's Creek proved of considerable service to the British cause. Great numbers of the royalists joined their army, and considerably augmented its force. Hence they were enabled to stretch their posts further up the river, and to guard all the principal passes ; so that Gen. Lincoln was reduced to a state of inaction, and at last moved off towards Augusta, in order to protect the state legislature, which was obliged to sit in that place, the capital being now in the hands of the British.

Gen. Lincoln had no sooner quitted his post, than it was judged a proper time by the British general to put in execution the grand scheme which had been meditated against Carolina. Many difficulties indeed lay in his way : the river Savannah was so swollen by the excessive rains of the season, that it seemed impassible ; the opposite shore, for a great way, was so full of swamps and marshes, that no army could march over it without the greatest difficulty ; and, to render the passage still more difficult, Gen. Moultrie was left with

a considerable body of troops, in order to oppose the enemy's attempts.

But in spite of every opposition, the constancy and perseverance of the British forces at last prevailed.— Gen. Moultrie was obliged to retire towards Charleston; and the pursuing army, after having waded through the marshes for some time, at last arrived in an open country, through which they pursued their march with great rapidity towards the capital; while Gen. Lincoln made preparations to march to its relief.

Certain intelligence of the danger to which Charleston was exposed, animated the American general. A chosen body of infantry, mounted on horseback for the great expedition, was dispatched before him; while Gen. Lincoln himself followed with all the forces he could collect. Gen. Moultrie, too, with the troops he had brought from Savannah, and some others he had collected since his retreat from thence, had taken possession of all the avenues leading to Charleston, and prepared for a vigorous defence. But all opposition proved ineffectual; and the British army was allowed to come within cannon shot of Charleston, on the 12th of May.

The town was now summoned to surrender, and the inhabitants would gladly have agreed to observe a neutrality during the rest of the war, and would have engaged also for the rest of the state. But these terms not being accepted, they made preparations for a vigorous defence. It was not, however, in the power of the British commander at this time to make an attack with any prospect of success. His artillery was not of sufficient weight; there were no ships to support his attack by land; and Gen. Lincoln, advancing rapidly with a superior army, threatened to inclose him between his own force and the town; so that should he fail in his first attempt, certain destruction would be the consequence.

For these reasons he withdrew his forces from before the town, and took possession of two islands called St. James's and St. John's, lying to the southward;



where, having waited some time, his force was augmented by the arrival of two frigates. With these he determined to make himself master of Port Royal, another island possessed of an excellent harbor and many other natural advantages, from its situation also commanding all the sea coast from Charleston to Savannah river.

The American general, however, did not allow this to be accomplished without opposition. Perceiving that his opponents had occupied an advantageous post on St. John's island, preparatory to his enterprize against Port Royal, he attempted, on the 20th of June, to dislodge them from it; but, after an obstinate attack, the Americans were obliged to retire with considerable loss.

On this occasion, the success of the British arms was in a great measure owing to an armed float, which galled the right flank of the Americans so effectually, that they could direct their efforts only against the strongest part of the lines, which proved impregnable to their attacks. This disappointment was instantly followed by the loss of Port Royal, which Gen. Prevost took possession of, and put his troops into proper stations, waiting for the arrival of such reinforcements as were necessary for the intended attack on Charleston.

The profligate conduct of the refugees, and the officers and soldiers of the British, in plundering the houses of individuals, during this incursion, is incredible. Negroes were seduced or forced from their masters; furniture and plate were seized without decency or authority; and the most infamous violations of every law of honor and honesty were openly perpetrated. Individuals thus accumulated wealth, but the reputation of the British arms incurred an everlasting stigma.

In the mean time, Count d'Estaing, who, as we have already observed, had put into Boston harbor to refit, had used his utmost endeavors to ingratiate himself with the inhabitants of that city. Zealous also in the cause of his master, he had published a proclamation, to be dispersed through Canada, bidding the people to

return to their original friendship with France, and declaring that all who renounced their allegiance to Great Britain, should certainly find a protector in the king of France. All his endeavors, however, proved insufficient at this time to produce any revolution, or even to form a party of any consequence among the Canadians.

As soon as the French admiral had refitted his fleet, he took the opportunity, while that of Admiral Byron had been shattered by a storm, of sailing to the West-Indies. During his operations there, the Americans having represented his conduct as totally unserviceable to them, he received orders from Europe to assist the states with all possible speed.

In compliance with these orders, he directed his course towards Georgia, with a design to recover that state out of the hands of the enemy, and to put it, as well as South-Carolina, in such a posture of defence, as would effectually secure them from any future attack. This seemed to be an easy matter, from the little force with which he knew he should be opposed; and the next object in contemplation, was no less than the destruction of the British fleet and army at New-York, and their total expulsion from the continent of America.

Full of these hopes, the French commander arrived off the coast of Georgia, with a fleet of twenty-two sail of the line, and ten large frigates. His arrival was so little expected, that several vessels laden with provisions and military stores fell into his hands; the *Experiment*, also, a vessel of fifty guns, commanded by Sir James Wallace, was taken, after a stout resistance.

On the continent, the British troops were divided. Gen. Prevost, with an inconsiderable part, remained at Savannah; but the main force was under Col. Maitland, at Port Royal. On the first appearance of the French fleet, an express was dispatched to Col. Maitland, but it was intercepted by the Americans; so that before he could set out in order to join the commander-in-chief, the Americans had secured most of the passes by land, while the French fleet effectually blocked up the passage by sea. But, by taking advantage of creeks

and inlets, and marching over land, he arrived just in time to relieve Savannah.

D'Estaing had allowed Gen. Prevost twenty-four hours to deliberate whether he should capitulate or not. This time the general employed in making the best preparations he could for a defence ; and during this time it was that Col. Maitland arrived. D'Estaing's summons was now rejected ; and there was every probability of success on the part of the British. The garrison now consisted of three thousand men, all of approved valor and experience ; while the united force of the French and Americans did not amount to ten thousand.

The event was answerable to the expectations of the British general. Having the advantage of a strong fortification, and excellent engineers, the fire of the allies made so little impression, that d'Estaing resolved to bombard the town, and a battery of nine mortars was erected for this purpose. This produced a request from Gen. Prevost, that the women and children might be allowed to retire to a place of safety. But the allied commanders, from motives of policy, refused compliance ; and they resolved to give a general assault.

This was accordingly attempted, on the 9th of October ; but the assailants were every where repulsed with such slaughter, that twelve hundred were killed and wounded ; among the former was Count Pulaski, the celebrated conspirator against the reigning king of Poland, and among the latter was d'Estaing himself.

This disaster entirely overthrew the sanguine hopes of the Americans and French ; but, so far from reproaches or animosity arising between them, their common misfortune seemed to increase their confidence and esteem for each other : a circumstance fairly to be attributed to the conciliatory conduct of Gen. Lincoln upon every occasion. After waiting eight days longer, both parties prepared for a retreat, the French to their shipping, and the Americans into Carolina.

## CHAPTER XXI.

Expedition against Virginia.—Vessels, stores, &c. at Portsmouth destroyed.—American works at Verplank's and Stony Point reduced by the British.—Expedition to Connecticut.—Shipping and naval stores at New-Haven destroyed.—Fairfield, Norwalk, and Greenfield burnt.—Storming of Stony Point.—Unsuccessful attempt on Powles Hook.—American expedition to Penobscot river.—Spain joins the confederacy against Great Britain, and invades West-Florida.—Military and naval operations there.—Gen. Sullivan's expedition against the Indians.—Indians defeated.

**W**HILE the allies were thus unsuccessfully employed in the southern states, their antagonists were no less assiduous in distressing them in the northern parts.—Sir George Collier was sent with a fleet, carrying on board Gen. Matthews, with a body of land forces, into the state of Virginia. Their first attempt was on the town of Portsmouth; where, though the Americans had destroyed some ships of great value, the British troops arrived in time to save a great number of others.

On this occasion about one hundred and twenty vessels of different sizes were burnt, and twenty carried off; and an immense quantity of provisions, designed for the use of Gen. Washington's army, was either destroyed or carried off, together with a great variety of naval and military stores. The fleet and army then returned, with little or no loss, to New-York.

The success with which this expedition was attended, soon gave the enemy encouragement to attempt another. The Americans had for some time been employed in the erection of two strong forts on the North river; the one at Verplank's Point, on the east, and the other at Stony Point, on the west side. These, when completed, would have been of the utmost service to the Americans, as commanding the principal pass, called the King's Ferry, between the northern and southern colonies. At present, however, they were not in a condition to make an effectual defence;

the enemy therefore determined to attack them before the works should be completed.

The force employed on this occasion was divided into two bodies ; one of which directed its course against Verplank's, and the other against Stony Point. The former was commanded by Gen. Vaughan, and the latter by Gen. Patterson, while the shipping was under the direction of Sir George Collier. General Vaughan met with no resistance ; the Americans at Verplank's Point abandoning their works, and setting fire to every thing combustible that they could not carry off. At Stony Point, however, a vigorous defence was made, though the garrison was at last obliged to capitulate upon honorable conditions.

To secure the possession of this last place, which was considered the most important of the two, Gen. Clinton removed from his former situation, and encamped in such a position as to prevent Gen. Washington from giving any assistance. The Americans, however, revenged themselves by distressing, with their numerous privateers, the trade with the enemy at New-York.

This occasioned a third expedition, to Connecticut, where these privateers were chiefly built and harbored. The command of this expedition was given to Gov. Tryon and Gen. Garth, an officer of known value and experience. Under convoy of a considerable number of armed vessels, they landed at New-Haven, where they demolished the batteries that had been erected to oppose them, and destroyed the shipping and naval stores ; but they spared the town itself, as the inhabitants had abstained from firing out of their houses upon the troops.

From New-Haven they marched to Fairfield, where they proceeded as before, reducing the town to ashes. Norwalk was next attacked, which in like manner was reduced to ashes ; as was also Greenfield, a small seaport in the neighborhood. Such repeated conflagrations, wantonly and cruelly spread, served only to in-

crease the disgust which was felt by every friend to the American cause.

These successes proved very alarming, as well as detrimental to the Americans ; so that Gen. Washington determined, at all events, to drive the enemy from Stony Point. For this purpose he sent Gen. Wayne, with a detachment of chosen men, directing him to attempt the recovery of it by surprize. On this occasion, the Americans showed a spirit and resolution exceeding any thing either party had performed during the war.

Though after the capture of it by the British, the fortifications of this place had been completed, and were very strong, they attacked the enemy with bayonets, after passing through a heavy fire of musketry and grape shot ; and, in spite of all opposition, obliged the surviving part of the garrison, amounting to five hundred, to surrender themselves prisoners of war.

Though the Americans did not at present attempt to retain possession of Stony Point, the success they had met with in the enterprize, emboldened them to make a similar attempt on Powles Hook, a fortified place on the Jersey side, opposite to New-York ; but, although the heroism of the enterprize, and the spirit with which it was executed, deserve applause, after having completely surprized the posts, the American commander, Maj. Lee, finding it impossible to retain them, made an orderly retreat, with about one hundred and sixty-one prisoners, among whom were seven officers.

Another expedition of greater importance was now projected on the part of the Americans. This was against a post on the river Penobscot, on the borders of Nova Scotia, of which the British had lately taken possession, and where they had begun to erect a fort, which threatened to be a very great inconvenience to the Americans.

The armament destined against this place was so soon got in readiness, that Col. M'Lane, the commanding officer at Penobscot, found himself obliged to drop the execution of part of his scheme ; and instead of a regu-

lar fort, to content himself with putting the works already constructed in as good a posture of defence as possible.

The Americans could not effect a landing without a great deal of difficulty, and bringing the guns of their largest vessels to bear upon the shore. As soon as this was done, however, they erected several batteries, and kept up a brisk fire for the space of a fortnight; after which they proposed to give a general assault; but before this could be effected, they perceived Sir George Collier, with a British fleet, sailing up the river to attack them.

On this they instantly embarked their artillery and military stores, sailing up the river as far as possible, in order to avoid him. They were so closely pursued, however, that not a single vessel could escape; so that the whole fleet, consisting of nineteen armed vessels and twenty-four transports, was destroyed; most of them indeed being blown up by themselves.

The soldiers and sailors were obliged to wander through immense deserts, where they suffered much for want of provisions; and, to add to their calamities, a quarrel broke out between the soldiers and seamen, concerning the cause of their disaster, which ended in a violent fray, where a great number were killed.

Thus, the arms of America and France being almost every where unsuccessful, the independence of the former seemed yet to be in danger, notwithstanding the assistance of so powerful an ally; when further encouragement was given, by the accession of Spain to the confederacy against Great Britain, in the month of June, 1779.

The first effect of this appeared in an invasion of West-Florida by the Spaniards, in September, 1779. As the country was in no state of defence, the Spaniards made themselves masters of the whole, almost without opposition.

Their next enterprize was against the Bay of Honduras, where the British logwood cutters were settled.

These, finding themselves too weak to resist, applied to the governor of Jamaica for relief ; who sent them a supply of men, ammunition, and military stores, under Capt. Dalrymple. Before the arrival of this detachment, the principal settlement in those parts, called St. George's Key, had been taken by the Spaniards, and retaken by the British.

In his way, Capt. Dalrymple fell in with a squadron from Admiral Parker, in search of some register ships richly laden ; but which, retreating into the harbor of Omoa, were too strongly protected by the fort to be attacked with safety. A project was then formed, in conjunction with the people of Honduras, to reduce this fort. The design was to surprize it ; but the Spaniards having discovered them, they were obliged to fight.

Victory quickly declared for the British ; but the fortifications were so strong, that the artillery they had brought along with them were found too light to make any impression. It was then determined to try the success of an escalade ; and this was executed with so much spirit, that the Spaniards stood astonished, without making any resistance ; and, in spite of all the efforts of the officers, threw down their arms and surrendered.

The spoil was immense, being valued at \$3,000,000. The Spaniards chiefly lamented the loss of two hundred and fifty quintals of quicksilver, a commodity indispensably necessary in the workings of their gold and silver mines ; so that they offered to ransom it at any price ; but this was refused, as well as the ransom of the fort, though the governor offered \$300,000 for it.

A small garrison was left for the defence of the place, but it was quickly attacked by a superior force, which obliged them to evacuate it, though not without destroying every thing that could be of any use to the enemy ; spiking the guns, and even locking the gates of the fort, and carrying off the keys. All this was done in sight of the besiegers ; after which the garrison embarked without the loss of a man.



As no operations of any consequence took place this year in the state of New-York, the congress made use of the opportunity to dispatch Gen. Sullivan, with a considerable force, in order to take vengeance on the Indians for their ravages and depredations. Of this the Indians were apprized; and collecting all their strength, resolved to come to a decisive engagement.

Accordingly they took a strong post in the most woody and mountainous part of the country; erecting a breast-work in their front, of large logs of wood, extending half a mile in length, while their right flank was covered by a river, and the left by a hill of difficult access. This advantageous position they had taken by the advice of the refugees who were among them, and of whom two or three hundred were present in the battle.

Thus posted, the Indians waited the approach of the American army: but the latter, having brought some artillery along with them, played it against the breast-work of the enemy with such success, that in two hours it was almost destroyed; and at the same time a party having reached the top of the hill, the Indians became apprehensive of being surrounded, on which they instantly fled with precipitation.

The Americans, after this battle, met with no further resistance of any consequence. They were suffered to proceed without interruption. On entering the country of the Indians, it appeared that they had been acquainted with agriculture and the arts of pence, far beyond what had been supposed. From Gen. Sullivan's pompous account, (which, however, became a subject of ridicule among the soldiers in Gen. Washington's army,) it was learned, that the Indian houses were large, convenient, and even elegant; their grounds were excellently cultivated, and their gardens abounded in fruit trees and vegetables of all kinds fit for food.

The whole of this fine country would now, by the American general, have been converted into a desert, had it not been for the humane forbearance of Gen.

Hand and Col. Durbin, in executing the orders of Gen. Sullivan. The desolation, however, was extensive, and not to be justified by the savage character and example of their enemy.



## CHAPTER XXII.

Sir Henry Clinton sails to Charleston, S. C. with troops and armed ships, to aid in the attack on that place.—Charleston attacked.—American cavalry and militia defeated.—British under Lieut. Col. Tarleton defeated.—Charleston surrendered to the British.—Harbor of New-York shut up by the ice.—Unsuccessful expedition to Staten Island.—Gen. Clinton's proclamations.

WE must now take a view of the transactions in the southern states; to which the war was, in the year 1780, so effectually transferred, that the operations there became at last decisive. The success of Gen. Prevost in advancing to the very capital of South-Carolina, has been already related, together with the obstacles which prevented him from becoming master of it at that time.

Towards the end of the year 1779, however, Sir Henry Clinton set sail from New-York, with a considerable body of troops, intended for the attack of Charleston, S. C. in a fleet of ships of war and transports, under the command of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot. They had a very tedious voyage; the weather was uncommonly bad; several of the transports were lost, as were also the greater part of the horses which they carried with them, intended for cavalry or other public uses; and an ordnance ship likewise foundered at sea.

Having arrived at Savannah, where they endeavored to repair the damages sustained on their voyage, they proceeded from thence on the 10th of February, 1780, to North-Edisto, the place of debarkation which had been previously appointed. They had a favorable and speedy passage thither: and though it required time to have the bar explored and the channel marked, the

transports all entered the harbor the next day ; and the army took possession of St. John's island, about thirty miles from Charleston, without opposition.

Preparations were then made for passing the squadron over Charleston bar, where the high water spring tides were only nineteen feet deep : but no opportunity offered of going into the harbor, till the 20th of March, when it was effected without any accident, though the American galleys continually attempted to prevent the English boats from sounding the channel. The British troops had previously removed from St. John's to St. James's island ; and on the 29th of the same month, they effected a landing on Charleston neck. On the 1st of April, they broke ground within eight hundred yards of the American works ; and by the 8th, the besiegers' guns were mounted in battery.

As soon as the army began to erect their batteries against the town, Admiral Arbuthnot embraced the first favorable opportunity of passing Sullivan's island, upon which there was a strong fort of batteries, the chief defence of the harbor. He weighed on the 9th, with the Roebuck, Richmond, Romulus, Blonde, Virginia, Raleigh, and Sandwich armed ship, the Renown bringing up the rear ; and, passing through a severe fire, anchored in about two hours under St. James's island, with the loss of seventy-two seamen, killed and wounded.

The Richmond's fore top mast was shot away, and the ships in general sustained damage in their masts and rigging, though not materially in their hulls. But the Acetus transport, having on board some naval stores, grounded within gun shot of Sullivan's island, and received so much damage that she was obliged to be abandoned and burnt.

On the 10th, Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot summoned the town to surrender to his majesty's arms : but Maj. Gen. Lincoln, who commanded in Charleston, returned them an answer, declaring it to be his intention to defend the place. The batteries were now opened against the town ; and from their ef

fect, the fire of the American advanced works considerably abated.

It appears that the number of troops under the command of Gen. Lincoln were by far too few for defending works of such extent as those of Charleston; and that many of these were men little accustomed to military service, and very ill provided with clothes and other necessities. Gen. Lincoln had been for some time expecting reinforcements and supplies from Virginia, and other places; but they came in very slowly.

Earl Cornwallis, and Lieut. Col. Tarleton under him, were also extremely active in intercepting such reinforcements and supplies as were sent to the American general. They totally defeated a considerable body of cavalry and militia which was proceeding to the relief of the town; and also made themselves masters of some posts which gave them in a great degree the command of the country, by which means, great supplies of provisions fell into their hands. Tarleton was himself, however, defeated in a rencounter with Lieut. Col. Washington, at the head of a regular corps of horse.

Such was the state of things, and Fort Sullivan had also been taken by the king's troops, when on the 12th of May, Gen. Clinton again summoned the town to surrender; an offer being made, as had been done before, that if they surrendered, the lives and property of the inhabitants should be preserved to them. Articles of capitulation were then proposed by Gen. Lincoln; but the terms were not agreed to by Gen. Clinton.

At length, however, the town being closely invested on all sides, and the preparations to storm it in every part being in great forwardness, and the ships ready to move to the assault, Gen. Lincoln, who had been applied to for that purpose by the inhabitants, surrendered it on such articles of capitulation as Gen. Clinton had before agreed to. This was on the 12th of May, which was one month and two days after the town had been first summoned to surrender.

A large quantity of ordnance, arms, and ammunition, was found in Charleston; and, according to Sir Henry

Clinton's account, the number of prisoners taken in Charleston amounted to five thousand six hundred and eighteen men, exclusive of near a thousand sailors in arms ; but, according to Gen. Lincoln's account transmitted to the congress, the whole number of continental troops taken prisoners, amounted to no more than two thousand four hundred and eighty-seven. The remainder, therefore, included in Gen. Clinton's account, must have consisted of militia and inhabitants of the town. Several American frigates were also taken or destroyed in the harbor of Charleston.

The loss of Charleston evidently excited a considerable alarm in America ; and the popular writers, particularly the author of the celebrated performance entitled "Common Sense," in some other pieces, made use of it as a powerful argument to lead them to more vigorous exertions against Great Britain, that they might the more effectually and certainly secure their independence.

While Sir Henry Clinton was employed in his voyage to Charleston, and in the siege of that place, the garrison at New-York seem not to have been wholly free from apprehensions for their own safety. An intense frost, accompanied with great falls of snow, began about the middle of December, 1779, and shut up the navigation of the port of New-York, from the sea, within a few days after the departure of Admiral Arbuthnot and Gen. Clinton.

The severity of the weather increased to so great a degree, that towards the middle of January all communications with New-York, by water, were entirely cut off, and as many new ones opened by the ice. The inhabitants could scarcely be said to be in an insular state. Horses with heavy carriages could go over the ice into the Jerseys, from one island to another.

The passage on the North river, even in the widest part, from New-York to Powles Hook, which was two thousand yards, was, about the 19th of January, practicable for the heaviest cannon : an event which had been unknown in the memory of man. Provisions

were soon after transported upon sledges, and a detachment of cavalry marched upon the ice from New-York to Staten Island, which was a distance of eleven miles.

The city of New-York, being thus circumstanced, was considered as much exposed to attacks from the American troops; and it was strongly reported that Gen. Washington was meditating a great stroke upon New-York with his whole force, by different attacks. Some time before this, Maj. Gen. Pattison, commandant at New-York, having received an address from many of the inhabitants, offering to put themselves in military array, he thought the present a favorable opportunity of trying the sincerity of their professions.

Accordingly he issued a proclamation, calling upon all the male inhabitants from the age of sixteen to sixty, to take up arms. The requisition was so readily complied with, that in a few days forty companies, from the six wards of the city, were enrolled, officered, and under arms, to the number of two thousand six hundred, many substantial citizens serving in the ranks of each company. Other volunteer companies were formed; and the city was put into a very strong posture of defence.

No attack, however, was made upon New-York, whatever design might originally have been meditated; but an attempt was made upon Staten Island, where there were about one thousand eight hundred men, under the command of Brig. Gen. Sterling, who were well entrenched. Gen. Washington, whose army was huddled at Morristown, sent a detachment of two thousand seven hundred men, with six pieces of cannon, two mortars, and some horses, commanded by Lord Sterling, who arrived at Staten Island early in the morning of the 15th of January.

The advanced posts of the British troops retired upon the approach of the Americans, who formed the line, and made some movements in the course of the day; but they withdrew in the night, after having burnt one house, pillaged some others, and carried off with them about two hundred head of cattle.

Immediately on the arrival of the Americans on Staten Island, Lieut. Gen. Knyphausen had embarked six hundred men to attempt a passage and to support Gen. Sterling ; but the floating ice compelled them to return. It is, however, imagined, that the appearance of these transports, with the British troops on board, which the Americans could see towards the close of the day, induced the latter to make so precipitate a retreat.

After Charleston had surrendered to the British troops, Gen. Clinton issued proclamations, and also circulated a handbill among the inhabitants of South-Carolina, in order to induce them to return to their allegiance, and to be ready to join the king's troops. It was said, that the helping hand of every man was wanted, to re-establish peace and good government ; and that as the commander-in-chief wished not to draw the king's friends into danger, while any doubt could remain of their success ; so now, that this was certain, he trusted that one and all would heartily join, and by a general concurrence, give effect to such necessary measures for that purpose, as from time to time might be pointed out.

Those who had families, were to form a militia to remain at home, and occasionally to assemble in their own districts, when required, under officers of their own choosing, for the maintenance of peace and good order. Those who had no families, and who could conveniently be spared for a time, it was presumed, would cheerfully assist his majesty's troops in driving their oppressors, acting under the authority of congress, and all the miseries of war, far from that colony.

For this purpose it was said to be necessary that the young men should be ready to assemble when required, and to serve with the king's troops for any six of the ensuing twelve months that might be found requisite, under proper regulations. They might choose officers to each company to command them ; and were to be allowed, when on service, pay, ammunition, and provisions, in the same manner as the king's troops.

When they joined the army, each man was to be fur-

nished with a certificate, declaring that he was only engaged to serve as a militia-man for the time specified; that he was not to be marched beyond North-Carolina and Georgia; and that, when the time was out, he was freed from all claims whatever of military service, excepting the common and usual militia duty where he lived. He would then, it was said, have paid his debt to his country, and be entitled to enjoy, undisturbed, that peace, liberty, and property, at home, which he had contributed to secure.

The proclamations and publications of Gen. Clinton appeared to produce some effect in South-Carolina; though they probably operated chiefly upon those who were before not much inclined to the cause of American independence. Two hundred and ten of the inhabitants of Charleston signed an address to Gen. Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot, soliciting to be re-admitted to the character and condition of British subjects, (the people of that city having been hitherto considered as prisoners on parole,) declaring their disapprobation of the doctrine of American independence, and expressing their regret, that, after the repeal of those statutes which gave rise to the troubles in America, the overtures made by his majesty's commissioners had not been regarded by the congress.

Sir Henry Clinton, in one of the proclamations issued at this time, declared, that if any person or persons should thenceforward appear in arms, in order to prevent the establishment of his majesty's government in that colony, or should, under any pretence or authority whatsoever, attempt to compel any other person or persons to do so, or should hinder or intimidate any of the king's faithful and loyal subjects from joining his forces, or otherwise performing those duties their allegiance required, such person or persons should be treated with the utmost severity, and their estates be immediately seized in order to be confiscated.

In the mean time the ravages of war did not prevent the Americans from paying some attention to the arts.



of peace. On the 4th of May, 1780, an act was passed by the council and house of representatives of Massachusetts-Bay, incorporating and establishing a society for the cultivation and promotion of the arts and sciences.

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### CHAPTER XXIII.

Congress continue to meet in Philadelphia.—Resolution to erect a monument to the memory of Gen. Montgomery.—Depreciation of continental currency.—Celebration of the 4th of July at Philadelphia.—M. Ternay arrives with a fleet and troops from France.—Unsuccessful expedition to New-Jersey.—Defeat of the Americans, under Gen. Gates, in South Carolina.—Americans under General Sumpter defeated.—

SOME doubts having arisen in the congress, towards the close of the preceding year, about the propriety of their assembling in the city of Philadelphia, it was now resolved that they should continue to meet there; and a committee of three members was appointed to report a suitable place, where buildings might be provided for the reception of the congress, together with an estimate of the expense of providing such buildings, and the necessary offices for the accommodation of the several boards.

It was also resolved by the congress, that a monument should be erected to the memory of their late general, Richard Montgomery, who fell at Quebec, in testimony of his signal and important services to the United States of America, with an inscription expressive of his amiable character and heroic achievements; and that the continental treasurers should be directed to advance a sum not exceeding three hundred pounds, to Dr. Franklin, to defray the expense, that gentleman being desired to cause the monument to be executed at Paris, or in some other part of France.

The congress likewise passed a resolution for establishing a court for the trial of all appeals from the court of admiralty of the United States of America,

in cases of capture ; to consist of three judges, to be appointed and commissioned by congress, and who were to take an oath of office ; and that the trials in this court should be determined by the usage of nations.

The difficulties of the congress, and of the people of America, had been greatly increased by the depreciation of their paper currency. At the time when the colonies engaged in the war with Great Britain, they had no regular civil governments established among them, of sufficient energy to enforce the collection of taxes, or to provide funds for the redemption of such bills of credit as their necessities obliged them to issue.

In consequence of this state of things, their bills increased in quantity, far beyond the sum necessary for the purpose of a circulating medium ; and, as they wanted, at the same time, specific funds to rest on for their redemption, they saw their paper currency daily sink in value. The depreciation continued, by a kind of gradual progression, from the year 1777 to 1780 ; so that, at the latter period, the continental bills were passed, by common consent, in most parts of America, at a discount of about ninety per cent. below their nominal value.

The impossibility of keeping up the credit of the currency to any fixed standard, occasioned great and almost insurmountable embarrassments in ascertaining the value of property, or carrying on trade, with any sufficient certainty. Those who sold, and those who bought, were left without a rule by which to form a judgment of their profit or loss ; and every species of commerce or exchange, whether foreign or domestic, was exposed to numberless and increasing difficulties.

The consequences of the depreciation of the paper currency were also felt with peculiar severity by such of the Americans as were engaged in the military service, and greatly augmented their other hardships. The requisitions made by the congress, to the several states, for supplies, were also far from being always

regularly complied with ; and the troops were not unfrequently in want of the most common necessities, which naturally occasioned complaints and discontent among them. Some of these difficulties, resulting from their circumstances and situation, perhaps no human wisdom could have prevented ; but they seem to have arisen, in part, from the congress not being sufficiently acquainted with the principles of finance, and from a defect of system in the departments of their government.

The cause of the Americans appears also to have suffered considerably from their depending too much on temporary enlistments. But the congress endeavored, towards the close of the year 1780, to put their army upon a more permanent footing, and to give all the satisfaction to their officers and soldiers which their circumstances would permit. They appointed a committee for arranging their finances, and made some new regulations respecting the war office and treasury board, and other public departments.

Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which they labored ; the Americans seemed to entertain no doubts but that they should be able to maintain their independence. The 4th of July was celebrated this year, at Philadelphia, with some pomp, as the anniversary of American independence. A commencement for conferring degrees in the arts was held the same day, in the hall of the university there ; at which the president and members of the congress attended, and other persons in public office.

The Chevalier de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary from the French king to the United States, was also present on the occasion. A charge was publicly addressed by the provost of the university to the students, in which, he said, that he could not but congratulate them “ on that auspicious day, which, amidst the confusions and desolations of war, beheld learning beginning to revive ; and animated them with the pleasing prospect of seeing the sacred lamp of science burning with a still brighter flame, and scattering its invigorating

rays over the unexplored deserts of this extensive continent ; until the whole world should be involved in the united blaze of knowledge, liberty, and religion.

“ When he stretched his views forward (he said) and surveyed the rising glories of America, the enriching consequences of their determined struggle for liberty, the extensive fields of intellectual improvement and useful invention, in science and arts, in agriculture and commerce, in religion and government, through which the unfettered mind would range, with increasing delight, in quest of the undiscovered treasure, which yet lay concealed in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms of the new world, or in the other fertile sources of knowledge with which it abounded—his heart swelled with the pleasing prospect, that the sons of that institution would distinguish themselves, in the different walks of life, by their literary contributions to the embellishments and increase of human happiness.”

On the 10th of July, M. Ternay, with a fleet of seven ships of the line and several frigates, and a large body of French troops, commanded by the Count de Rochambeau, arrived at Rhode-Island ; and on the following day six thousand men were landed there. A committee from the general assembly of Rhode-Island was appointed to wait upon the French general, and congratulate him on his arrival ; whereupon he returned an answer, in which he informed them that the king his master had sent him to the assistance of his good and faithful allies, the United States of America. At present, he said, he only brought the vanguard of a much greater force destined for their aid ; and the king of France had ordered him to assure the people of America, that his whole power should be exerted for their support. He added, that the French troops were under the strictest discipline ; and, acting under the orders of Gen. Washington, they would live with the Americans as their brethren.

A scheme was soon after formed, by Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot, of making a combined

attack against the French fleet and troops at Rhode-Island. Accordingly, a considerable part of the troops at New-York were embarked for that purpose. Gen. Washington, having received information of this, passed the North river, by a very rapid movement, and, with an army of twelve thousand men, proceeded with celerity towards King's Bridge, in order to attack New-York ; but learning that the British general had changed his intention and disembarked his troops, General Washington re-crossed the river, and returned to his former station ; and Gen. Clinton and the admiral relinquished their intended attack on Rhode-Island, as impracticable for the present.

An unsuccessful attempt was likewise made about this time, in the Jerseys, by Gen. Knyphausen.— With seven thousand British troops under his command, he undertook to surprize the advanced posts of Gen. Washington's army. For this purpose he proceeded very rapidly towards Springfield, meeting but little opposition till he came to the bridge at that place, which was gallantly defended against his army, by a small party of Americans, not exceeding one hundred and seventy ; but the latter were obliged to give up so unequal a contest, after losing thirty-seven men.

After securing this pass, the British troops marched into the town, and set fire to most of the houses.— They also committed some other depredations in the Jerseys, but gained no laurels there, being obliged to return, about the middle of July, without effecting any thing material.

In South-Carolina the royal arms met with more success. Earl Cornwallis, who commanded the British troops there, obtained a signal victory over Gen. Gates, on the 16th of August. The action began at break of day, in a situation very advantageous for the British troops, but very unfavorable to the Americans. The latter were much more numerous ; but the ground on which both armies stood was narrowed by swamps on the right and left, so that the Americans could not avail themselves properly of their superior numbers.

There seems to have some want of generalship on the part of Gates, in suffering himself to be surprized in so disadvantageous a position. But this circumstance was the effect of accident; for both armies set out with a design of attacking each other, precisely at the same time, at ten o'clock the preceding evening, and met together before day-light, at the place where the action happened.

The attack was made by the British troops, with great vigor, and in a few minutes the action was general along the whole line. It was at this time a dead calm, with a little haziness in the air, which prevented the smoke from rising, and occasioned so thick a darkness that it was difficult to see the effect of a heavy and well-supported fire on both sides. The British troops either kept up a constant fire, or made use of bayonets, as opportunities offered; and after an obstinate resistance of three quarters of an hour, threw the Americans into total confusion, and forced them to give way in all quarters.

The continental troops behaved remarkably well, but the militia were soon broken, leaving the former to oppose the whole force of the British troops. Gen. Gates did all in his power to rally the militia, but without effect: the continentals retreated in some order; but the rout of the militia was so great, that the British cavalry continued the pursuit of them to the distance of twenty-two miles from the place of action.

The loss of the Americans, on this occasion, was very considerable; about one thousand prisoners were taken, and more than that number were said to have been killed and wounded, although the number was not very accurately ascertained. Seven pieces of brass cannon, various stands of colors, and all the ammunition waggons of the Americans, fell into the hands of the enemy. Among the prisoners taken, was Major-General the Baron de Kalb, a Prussian officer in the American service, who was mortally wounded, after exhibiting great gallantry in the course of the action, having received eleven wounds. Of the British troops,

the number of killed and wounded amounted to two hundred and thirteen.

Lieut. Col. Tarleton, who had greatly distinguished himself in this action, was detached on the following day, with a body of cavalry and light infantry, amounting to about three hundred and fifty men, to attack a corps of Americans under Gen. Sumpter. He executed this service with great activity and military address. Having procured good information of Sumpter's movements, by forced and concealed marches, he came up with and surprized him in the middle of the day, near Catawba fords, and totally destroyed or dispersed his detachment, which consisted of seven hundred men, killing one hundred and fifty, and taking about three hundred prisoners, together with two pieces of brass cannon, and forty-four waggons.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

Treachery of Gen. Arnold, who joins the British army.—Major Andre taken and executed as a spy.—Defeat of the British and tories under Maj. Ferguson.—Gen. Sumpter again defeated.—Mr. Laurens taken and confined in London, on a charge of high treason.—Disturbance among the Pennsylvania troops.—Defeat of the British under Col. Tarleton.

**N**OT long after these events, means were found to seduce Maj. Gen. Arnold, who had engaged so ardently in the cause of America, and who had exhibited so much bravery, on various occasions, from the interests of the congress. Maj. Andre, adjutant-general to the British army, was a principal agent in this transaction ; or, if the overture of joining the king's troops came first from Arnold, this gentleman was the person employed to concert the affair with him.

More must have been originally comprehended in the scheme, than the mere desertion of the American cause by Arnold : the surrender of West-Point into the hands of the British army, was the probable object ; but whatever designs had been formed for pro-

moting the views of the British government, they were frustrated by the apprehending of Major Andre. He was taken in disguise, after having assumed a false name, on the 23d of September, by three American soldiers, to whom he offered considerable rewards to induce them to suffer him to escape, but without effect. Several papers written by Arnold were found upon him; and when Arnold had learned that Andre was seized, he found means to get on board a barge, and to escape to one of the king's ships.

Gen. Washington referred the case of Maj. Andre to the examination and decision of a board of general officers, consisting of Maj. Gen. Green, Maj. Gen. Lord Sterling, Maj. Gen. the Marquis de la Fayette, Maj. Gen. the Baron de Steuben, two other major-generals, and eight brigadier-generals. Major Andre was examined before them, and the particulars of his case inquired into; and they reported to the American commander-in-chief, that Maj. Andre came on shore from the Vulture sloop of war, in the night, on an interview with Gen. Arnold, in a private and secret manner; that he changed his dress within the American lines; and, under a feigned name, and in a disguised habit, passed the American works at Stony and Verplank's Points, on the evening of the 22d of September; that he was taken on the morning of the 23d, at Tarrytown, he being then on his way for New-York; and that, when taken, he had in his possession several papers which contained intelligence for the enemy.—They therefore determined, that he ought to be considered as a spy from the enemy; and that, agreeable to the law and usage of nations, he ought to suffer death.

Sir Henry Clinton, Lieut. Gen. Robertson, and the late American Gen. Arnold, all wrote pressing letters to Gen. Washington on the occasion, in order to prevent the decision of the board of general officers from being put in force; but their applications were ineffectual. Maj. Andre was hanged at Tappan, in the state of New-York, on the 2d of October, 1780. He met his fate with great firmness; but appeared somewhat



hurt that he was not allowed a more military death, for which he had solicited.

Maj. Andre was a gentleman of very amiable qualities, had a taste for literature and the fine arts, and possessed many accomplishments. His death, therefore, was regretted even by his enemies; and the seeming severity of the determination concerning him, was much exclaimed against in Great Britain. It was, however, generally acknowledged by impartial persons, that there was nothing in the execution of this unfortunate gentleman but what was perfectly consonant to the rules of war.

Arnold was made a brigadier-general in the king's service, and published an address to the inhabitants of America, dated at New-York, October 7th, in which he endeavored to justify his desertion of their cause. He said, that when he first engaged in it, he conceived the rights of his country to be in danger, and that duty and honor called him to her defence. A redress of grievances was his only aim and object; and therefore he acquiesced unwillingly in the declaration of independence, because he thought it precipitate. But, what now induced him to desert their cause, was the disgust he had conceived at the French alliance, and at the refusal of congress to comply with the last terms offered by Great Britain, which he thought equal to all their expectations, and to all their wishes.

The Americans, however, accounted for the conduct of Arnold, in a different and in a more probable and satisfactory manner. They alleged that he had so involved himself in debts and difficulties by his extravagant manner of living in America, that he had rendered it very inconvenient for him to continue there; that after the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British troops, Arnold, being invested with the command in that city, had made the house of Mr. Penn, which was the best in the city, his head quarters. This he had furnished in an elegant and expensive manner, and lived in a style far beyond his income.

It was manifest, they said, that he could at first have

no great aversion to the French alliance, because that when M. Gerard, minister plenipotentiary from the court of France, arrived at Philadelphia, in July, 1778, Gen. Arnold early and earnestly solicited that minister, with his whole suite, to take apartments and bed and board at his house, until a proper house could be provided by order of congress. This offer M. Gerard accepted, and continued with him some weeks.

The French minister resided upwards of fourteen months in Philadelphia; during which time Gen. Arnold kept up a most friendly and intimate acquaintance with him, and there was a continual interchange of dinners, balls, routes, and concerts: so that M. Gerard must have believed, that in Gen. Arnold he had found and left one of the warmest friends the court of France had in America. He was also one of the first in congratulating the Chevalier de la Luzerne, the second French minister.

About this time, complaints and accusations were exhibited against him by the government of Philadelphia, for divers mal-practices; among which charges were, the appropriation of goods and merchandize to his own use, which he had seized as British property in Philadelphia, in July, 1778. It was determined by a court martial, that his conduct was highly reprehensible; but he was indulgently treated, and was therefore only reprimanded by the commander-in-chief, Gen. Washington. It was in these circumstances, the Americans said, bankrupted in reputation and fortune, loaded with debts, and having a growing and expensive family, that Gen. Arnold first turned his thoughts towards joining the royal arms.

After the defeat of Gen. Gates by Earl Cornwallis, that nobleman exerted himself to the utmost in extending the progress of the British arms, and with considerable effect. But one enterprize, which was conducted by Maj. Ferguson, proved unsuccessful. That officer had taken abundant pains to discipline some of the tory militia, as they were termed; and with a party of these, and some British troops, amounting in the whole to

about fourteen hundred men, made incursions into the country. But on the 7th of October, he was attacked by a superior body of Americans, at a place called King's Mountain, and totally defeated. One hundred and fifty were killed in the action, and eight hundred and ten made prisoners, of whom one hundred and fifty were wounded. Fifteen hundred stands of arms fell into the hands of the Americans, whose loss was considerable.

But the following month Lieut. Col. Tarleton, with a party of one hundred and seventy, chiefly cavalry, attacked Gen. Sumpter, who is said to have had one thousand men, at a place called Black-Stocks, and obliged him to retire. Sumpter was wounded, and about one hundred and twenty of the Americans killed, wounded, or taken. Of the British troops, about fifty were killed and wounded.

On the 3d of September, the *Mercury*, a congress packet, was taken by the *Vestal*, Capt. Keppel, near Newfoundland. On board of this packet was Mr. Laurens, late president of the congress, who was bound on an embassy to Holland. He had thrown his papers overboard, but a great part of them were recovered, without having received much damage. He was carried to London, and examined before the privy council; in consequence of which, he was committed close prisoner to the Tower, on a charge of high treason.—His papers were delivered to the ministry, and contributed to facilitate a rupture with Holland, as among them was found the sketch of a treaty of amity and commerce between the republic of Holland and the United States of America.

In the beginning of the year 1781, an affair happened in America, from which expectations were formed by Sir Henry Clinton, that some considerable advantage might be derived to the royal cause. The long continuance of the war, and the difficulties under which the congress labored, had prevented their troops from being properly supplied with necessaries and conveniences. In consequence of this, on the 1st of January,

the American troops that were huddled at Morristown, and who formed what was called the Pennsylvania line, turned out, being in number thirteen hundred, and declared, that they would serve no longer, unless their grievances were redressed, as they had not received their pay, or been furnished with the necessary clothing or provisions.

It is said, that they were somewhat inflamed with liquor, in consequence of rum having been distributed to them more liberally than usual—new-year's day being considered as a kind of festival. A riot ensued, in which an officer was killed, and four wounded; five or six of the insurgents were also wounded. They then collected the artillery, stores, provisions, and waggons, and marched out of the camp.

They marched by the quarters of Gen. Wayne, who sent a message to them, requesting them to desist, or the consequences would prove fatal. They refused, and proceeded on their march till the evening, when they took post on an advantageous piece of ground, and elected officers from among themselves. On the 2d, they marched to Middlebrook, and on the 3d to Princeton, where they fixed their quarters.

On that day a flag of truce was sent to them from the officers of the American camp, with a message, desiring to know what were their intentions. Some of them answered, that they had already served longer than the time for which they were enlisted, and would serve no longer; and others, that they would not return, unless their grievances were redressed. But at the same time they repeatedly, and in the strongest terms, denied being influenced by the least disaffection to the American cause, or having any intentions of deserting to the enemy.

Intelligence of this transaction was soon conveyed to New-York. A large body of English troops were immediately ordered to hold themselves in readiness to move on the shortest notice, it being hoped that the American revolvers might be induced to join the royal army. Messengers were also sent to them from Gen.

Clinton, acquainting them that they should directly be taken under the protection of the British government; that they should have a free pardon for all former offences; and that the pay due to them from the congress, should be faithfully paid them, without any expectation of military service, unless it should be voluntary, upon condition of their laying down their arms, and returning to their allegiance. It was also recommended to them to move beyond the South river; and they were assured, that a body of British troops should be ready to protect them whenever they desired it.

These propositions were rejected with disdain; and they even delivered up two of Sir Henry Clinton's messengers to the congress. Joseph Reid, Esq. president of the state of Pennsylvania, afterwards repaired to them at Princeton, and an accommodation took place. Such of them as had served out their full terms, were permitted to return to their homes; and the others again joined the American army, upon receiving satisfactory assurances that their grievances should be redressed.

Lord Cornwallis now began to make very vigorous exertions, in order to penetrate into North-Carolina. On the 11th of January his lordship's army was in motion, and advancing towards that state; but was somewhat delayed by an attempt made by the Americans, under Gen. Morgan, to make themselves masters of the valuable district of Ninety-six.

In order to prevent this, Lord Cornwallis detached Lieut. Col. Tarleton, with three hundred cavalry, three hundred light infantry, the seventh regiment, the first battalion of the seventy-first regiment, and two three-pounders, to oppose the progress of Morgan, not doubting that he would be able to perform this service effectually. The British troops came up with the Americans under Gen. Morgan on the 17th of January.

The Americans, two thirds of whom were militia, were drawn up in an open wood, at a place called the Cowpens, near Pacolet river. The British, besides

their field-pieces, had the advantage of five to four in infantry, and of more than three to one in cavalry.

The attack was begun by the first line of infantry, consisting of the seventh regiment, and a corps of light infantry, with a troop of cavalry placed on each flank. The first battalion of the seventy-first, and the remainder of the cavalry, formed the reserve.

The American line soon gave way, and their militia quitted the field; upon which the royal troops, supposing the victory already gained, engaged with ardor in the pursuit, and were thereby thrown into some disorder. Gen. Morgan's corps, who were supposed to have been routed, then immediately faced about, and threw in a heavy fire upon the king's troops, which occasioned the utmost confusion among them; and they were at length totally defeated by the Americans.

Four hundred of the British infantry were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners; the loss of the cavalry was much less considerable; but the two three-pounders fell into the hands of the Americans, together with the colors of the seventh regiment; and all the detachment of royal artillery were either killed or wounded in defence of their colors.

Lieut. Col. Tarleton then retreated to Hamilton's ford, near the mouth of Bullock's creek, carrying with him part of his baggage, and destroying the remainder.



## CHAPTER XXV.

Lord Cornwallis crosses North-Carolina, and erects the king's standard at Hillsborough.—Tories defeated by the Americans.—British under Gen. Arnold destroy stores, &c. at Richmond.—Cannon foundry at Westham destroyed.—British enter Wilmington.—Battle between the British under Lord Cornwallis and Americans under Gen. Greene, in which the latter is defeated.—Gen. Greene again defeated by Lord Rawdon.—Destruction of stores, &c. in various parts of Virginia.

**T**HE defeat of the troops under Lieut. Col. Tarleton was a severe stroke to Lord Cornwallis, as the loss of his light infantry was a great disadvantage to him. The

day after the event, he employed in collecting the remains of Tarleton's corps, and in endeavoring to form a junction with Gen. Leslie, who had been ordered to march towards him with a body of British troops from Wynneshburgh. Considerable exertions were then made by part of the army, without baggage, to retake the prisoners in the hands of the Americans, and to intercept Gen. Morgan's corps, on its retreat to the Catawba.

But that American officer, after his defeat of Tarleton, had made forced marches up into the country, and crossed the Catawba the evening before a great rain, which swelled the river to such a degree, as to prevent the British army from crossing for several days; during which time the British prisoners were got over the Yadkin; whence they proceeded to Dan river, which they also passed, and, on the 14th of February, had reached Court-house, in the state of Virginia.

Lord Cornwallis employed a halt of two days in collecting some flour, and in destroying superfluous baggage, and all his waggons, excepting those laden with hospital stores, salt, and ammunition, and four reserved empty, in readiness for sick or wounded. Being thus freed from all unnecessary incumbrances, he marched through North-Carolina with great rapidity, and penetrated to the remotest extremities of that state, on the banks of the Dan. His progress was sometimes impeded by parties of the militia, and some skirmishes ensued, but he met with no very considerable opposition.

On the first of February, the British troops crossed the Catawba at M'Cowan's Ford, where Gen. Davidson, with a party of American militia, was posted, in order to oppose their passage; but he falling by the first discharge, the royal troops made good their landing, and the militia retreated. When Lord Cornwallis arrived at Hillsborough, he erected the king's standard, and invited, by proclamation, all loyal subjects to repair to it, and to stand forth and take an active part in assisting his lordship to restore order and government.

He had been taught to believe that the king's friends

were numerous in that part of the country : but the event did not confirm the truth of the representations that had been given. The royalists were but few in number, and some of them too timid to join the king's standard. There were, indeed, about two hundred, who were proceeding to Hillsborough, under Col. Pyle, in order to avow their attachment to the royal cause ; but they were met accidentally, and surrounded by a detachment of the American army, by whom a number of them are said to have been killed when they were begging for quarters, without making the least resistance.

Meanwhile Gen. Greene was marching with great expedition, with the troops under his command, in order to form a junction with other corps of American troops, that he might thereby be enabled to put some effectual stop to the progress of Lord Cornwallis.

In other places, some considerable advantages were obtained by the royal arms. On the 4th of January, some ships of war, with a number of transports, on board of which was a large body of troops, under the command of Brig. Gen. Arnold, arrived at Westover, about one hundred and forty miles from the Capes of Virginia, where the troops immediately landed, and marched to Richmond ; which they reached without opposition, the militia that was collected having retreated on their approach.

Lieut. Col. Simcoe marched from hence, with a detachment of British troops, to Westham, where they destroyed one of the finest foundries for cannon in America, and a large quantity of stores and cannon.— Gen. Arnold, on his arrival at Richmond, found there large quantities of salt, rum, sail-cloth, and tobacco, the last of which he destroyed to a very great amount. The British troops afterwards attacked and dispersed some small parties of the Americans, took some stores and a few pieces of cannon, and on the 20th of January marched into Portsmouth.

On the 25th, Capt. Barclay, with several ships of war, and a body of troops under the command of Maj.



Craig, arrived in Cape Fear river. The troops landed about nine miles from Wilmington, and on the 28th entered that town. It was understood that their having possession of that town, and being masters of Cape Fear river, would be productive of very beneficial effects to Lord Cornwallis' army.

Gen. Greene, having effected a junction about the 10th of March, with a continental regiment of what were called eighteen months men, and two large bodies of militia, belonging to Virginia and North-Carolina, formed a resolution to attack the British troops under the command of Lord Cornwallis. The American army marched from High Rock Ford on the 12th of the month, and on the 14th arrived at Guilford.

Lord Cornwallis, from the information he had received of the motions of the American general, concluded what were his designs. As they approached more nearly to each other, a few skirmishes ensued between some advanced parties, in which the advantage was sometimes gained by the Americans, and sometimes by the British.

On the morning of the 15th, Lord Cornwallis marched with his troops at day-break, in order to meet the Americans, or to attack them in their encampment.—About four miles from Guilford, the advanced guard of the British army, commanded by Lieut. Col. Tarleton, fell in with a corps of the Americans, consisting of Lieut. Col. Lee's legion, some Back Mountain men, and Virginia militia, with whom he had a severe skirmish, and was at length obliged to retreat.

The greater part of the country in which the action happened was a wilderness, with a few cleared fields interspersed. The American army was posted on a rising ground, about a mile and a half from Guilford court-house. It was drawn up in three lines: the front line was composed of the North-Carolina militia, under the command of Generals Butler and Eaton; the second line, of Virginia militia, commanded by Generals Stevens and Lawson, forming two brigades; the third line, consisting of two brigades, one of Virginia,

and one of Maryland continental troops, commanded by Gen. Huger and Col. Williams.

Lieut. Col. Washington, with the dragoons of the first and third regiments, a detachment of light infantry, composed of continental troops, and a regiment of riflemen under Col. Lynch, formed a corps of observation for the security of their right flank. Lieut. Col. Lee, with his legion, a detachment of light infantry, and a corps of riflemen under Col. Campbell, formed a corps of observation for the security of their left flank.

The attack of the American army was directed by Lord Cornwallis, to be made in the following order :— On the right, the regiment of Bose, and the seventy-first regiment, led by Maj. Gen. Leslie, and supported by the first battalion of guards ; on the left, the twenty-third and thirty-third regiments, led by Lieut. Col. Webster, and supported by the grenadiers and second battalion of guards commanded by Brig. Gen. O'Hara ; the Yagers and light infantry of the guards, remained in a wood on the left of the guns, and the cavalry in the road, ready to act as circumstances might require.

About half an hour after one in the afternoon, the action commenced by a cannonade, which lasted about twenty minutes ; when the British troops advanced in three columns, and attacked the North-Carolina brigades with great vigor, and soon obliged a part of these troops to quit the field ; but the Virginia militia gave them a warm reception, and kept up a heavy fire for a long time, till, being beaten back, the action became general almost every where. The American corps under Colonels Washington and Lee, were also warmly engaged, and did considerable execution.

Lieut. Col. Tarleton had directions to keep his cavalry compact, and not to charge without positive orders, excepting to protect any of the corps from the most evident danger of being defeated. The excessive thickness of the woods rendered the British bayonets of little use, and enabled the broken corps of the Americans to make frequent stands with an irregular fire.

The second battalion of the guards first gained the

clear ground near Guilford court-house, and found a corps of continental infantry, superior in number, formed in an open field near the road. Desirous of signaling themselves, they immediately attacked and soon defeated them, taking two six-pounders; but as they pursued the Americans into the woods with too much ardor, they were thrown into confusion by a heavy fire, and instantly charged and driven back into the field by Lieut. Col. Washington's dragoons, with the loss of the two six-pounders they had taken. But the American cavalry were afterwards repulsed, and the two six-pounders again fell into the hands of the British troops.

The British troops, having at length broken the second Maryland regiment, and turned the left flank of the Americans, got into the rear of the Virginia brigade, and appeared to be gaining their right, which would have encircled the whole of the continental troops, when Gen. Greene thought it prudent to order a retreat.

Many of the American militia dispersed in the woods, but the continental troops retreated in good order, to Reedy Fork river, and crossed at the ford about three miles from the field of action, and there halted. When they had collected their stragglers, they retreated to the iron works, ten miles distant from Guilford, where they encamped. They lost their artillery, and two waggons laden with ammunition.

It was a hard fought action, and lasted an hour and a half. Of the British troops, the loss, as stated by Lord Cornwallis, was five hundred and thirty-two killed, wounded, and missing. Gen. Greene, in his account of the action transmitted to the congress, stated the loss of the continental troops, to amount to three hundred and twenty-nine killed, wounded, and missing; but he made no estimate of the loss of the militia, which was somewhat more than one hundred.

Lieut. Col. Stuart was killed in the action; and Lieut. Col. Webster, and Captains Schutz, Maynard, and Goodrich, died of the wounds that they had received

in it. Brig. Gen. O'Hara, Brig. Gen. Howard, and Lieut. Col. Tarleton, were also wounded. Of the Americans, the principal officer killed was Maj. Anderson, of the Maryland line, and Generals Stevens and Huger were wounded.

The British troops underwent great hardships in the course of this campaign ; and in a letter of Lord Cornwallis to Lord George Germaine, dated March 17th, he observed, that "the soldiers had been three days without bread." His lordship quitted Guilford three days after the battle which was fought in that place ; and on the 5th of April, after a retreat marked with proofs of great alarm and precipitation, arrived in the neighborhood of Wilmington.

Soon after, Gen. Greene, notwithstanding his late defeat, endeavored to make some vigorous attempts against the king's forces in South-Carolina. Lord Rawdon had been appointed to defend the post of Camden, with about eight hundred British and provincials ; and on the 19th of April Gen. Greene appeared before that place, with a large body of continentals and militia. He found it, however, impossible to attempt to storm the town with any prospect of success ; and therefore endeavored to take such a position as should induce the British troops to sally from their works.

He posted the Americans about a mile from the town, on an eminence which was covered with wood, and flanked on the left by an impassable swamp. But on the morning of the 25th, Lord Rawdon marched out of Camden, and attacked Gen. Greene in his camp.—The Americans made a vigorous resistance, but were at length compelled to give way ; and the pursuit is said to have been continued three miles.

For some time after the action commenced, Gen. Greene entertained great hopes of defeating the British troops ; in which, as the Americans were superior in point of numbers, he would probably have succeeded, had not some capital military errors been committed by one or two of the officers who served under him. On the American side, Col. Washington had be-

haved extremely well in this action, having made upwards of two hundred of the English prisoners, with ten or twelve officers, before he perceived that the Americans were abandoning the field of battle.

The loss of the English was about one hundred killed and wounded. Upwards of one hundred Americans were taken prisoners ; and, according to the account published by Gen. Greene, they had one hundred and twenty-six killed and wounded. After this action, Gen. Greene retreated to Rugeley's mills, twelve miles from Camden, in order to collect his troops and wait for reinforcements.

Notwithstanding the advantage which Lord Rawdon had obtained over Gen. Greene at Camden, that nobleman soon after found it necessary, having burned the jail, mills, many private houses, and a part of his own baggage, to quit that post ; and the Americans made themselves masters of several other posts that were occupied by the king's troops, and the garrisons of which were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war. These troops were afterwards exchanged under a cartel which took place between Lord Cornwallis and Gen. Greene, for the release of all prisoners of war in the southern district.

After these events, Gen. Greene laid close siege to Ninety-six, which was considered as the most commanding and important of all the posts in the back country ; and on the 19th of June he attempted to storm the garrison, but was repulsed by the gallantry of the British troops, with the loss of about one hundred and fifty killed, wounded, and missing. Gen. Greene then raised the siege, and retired with his army behind the Saluda, to a strong situation, within sixteen miles of Ninety-six.

On the 18th of April, a large body of British troops, under the command of Maj. Gen. Phillips and Brig. Gen. Arnold, embarked at Portsmouth, in Virginia, in order to proceed on an expedition for the purpose of destroying some of the American stores. A party of light infantry were sent ten or twelve miles up the

Chickahomany; where they destroyed several armed ships, sundry ware-houses, and the American state ship yards. At Petersburg, the English destroyed four thousand hogsheds of tobacco, one ship, and a number of small vessels on the stocks and in the river.

At Chesterfield court-house, they burnt a range of barracks for two thousand men, and three hundred barrels of flour. At a place called Osborn's, they made themselves masters of several vessels loaded with cordage and flour, and destroyed about two thousand hogsheds of tobacco, and sundry vessels were sunk and burnt.

At Warwick, they burnt a magazine of five hundred barrels of flour, some fine mills belonging to Col. Carey, a large range of public rope walks and store-houses, tan and bark houses full of hides and bark, and great quantities of tobacco. A like destruction of stores and goods was made in other parts of Virginia.



## CHAPTER XXVI.

Action between the French and English fleets, off the Capes of Virginia.—Americans defeated by Lieut. Col. Simcoe.—Action near the Green Springs.—Action at Eutaw Springs.—New-London, Conn. burnt by the British.—Fort Griswold taken.—Gen. Washington marches towards Virginia.—Lord Cornwallis takes post at Yorktown and Gloucester.

**F**ROM the account already given of some of the principal military operations of the present year, it appears, that though advantages had been gained by the royal troops, yet no event had taken place, from which it could rationally be expected that the final termination of the war would be favorable to Great Britain. It was also a disadvantage to the British, that there was a misunderstanding between Admiral Arbuthnot and Sir Henry Clinton, and a mutual disapprobation of each other's conduct. This was manifest from their dispatches to government, and especially from those of

Gen. Clinton, whose expressions respecting the conduct of the Admiral, were by no means equivocal.

On the 16th of March, 1781, a partial action happened off the Capes of Virginia, between the fleet under Admiral Arbuthnot, consisting of seven ships of the line, and one fifty gun ship, and a French squadron, consisting of the same number of ships of the line, and one forty gun ship. Some of the ships in both fleets received considerable damage in the action, and the loss of the English was thirty killed, and seventy-three wounded; but no ship was taken on either side. The British fleet, however, claimed the advantage; as the French were obliged to retire, and were supposed to be prevented by this action from carrying troops into the Chesapeake, in order to attack Gen. Arnold, and impede the progress of Lord Cornwallis. But it was an unfortunate circumstance for them, that some time before this engagement, the *Romulus*, a ship of forty-four guns, was captured by the French, off the Capes of Virginia.

Lord Cornwallis, after his victory over Gen. Greene at Guilford, proceeded, as we have seen, to Wilmington, where he arrived on the 7th of April. But before he reached that place, he published a proclamation, calling upon all loyal subjects to stand forth and take an active part in restoring good order and government; and declaring to all persons who had engaged in the present rebellion against his majesty's authority, but who were now convinced of their error, and desirous of returning to their duty and allegiance, that if they would surrender themselves, with their arms and ammunition, at head quarters, or to the officers commanding in the districts contiguous to their respective places of residence, on or before the 20th of that month, they would be permitted to return to their homes, upon giving a military parole; they would be protected, in their persons and property, from all violence from the British troops; and would be restored, as soon as possible, to all the privileges of legal and constitutional government. But it does not appear that

any considerable number of the Americans were allured by these promises, to give any evidence of their attachment to the royal cause.

On the 20th of May his lordship arrived at Petersburg, in Virginia, where he joined a body of British troops that had been under the command of Maj. Gen. Philips ; but the command of which, in consequence of the death of that officer, had devolved upon Brig. Gen. Arnold. Before this junction, he had encountered considerable inconveniences from the difficulty of procuring provisions and forage ; so that in a letter to Sir Henry Clinton, he informed him, that his cavalry wanted every thing, and his infantry every thing but shoes. He added, that he had experienced the distresses of marching hundreds of miles in a country chiefly hostile, without one active or useful friend, without intelligence, and without communications with any part of the country.

On the 26th of June, about six miles from Williamsburgh, Lieut. Col. Simcoe, and three hundred and fifty of the queen's rangers, with eighty mounted Yagers, were attacked by a much superior body of the Americans ; but whom they repulsed with great gallantry and with equal success, making four officers and twenty private men prisoners. The loss of the Americans in this action is said to have been upwards of one hundred and twenty, and that of the British troops not more than forty.

On the 6th of July, an action happened near the Green Springs, in Virginia, between a reconnoitering party of the Americans, under Gen. Wayne, amounting to about eight hundred, and a large party of the British under Lord Cornwallis ; in which the Americans had one hundred and twenty-seven killed and wounded, and the loss of the royal troops is supposed to have been considerably greater. It was an action in which no small degree of military skill and courage was exhibited by the Americans. In a variety of skirmishes, the Marquis de la Fayette very much distin-



guished himself, and displayed the utmost ardor in the American cause.

In South-Carolina, an action happened on the 9th of September, near the Eutaw Springs, between a large body of British troops, under the command of Lieut. Col. Stuart, and an equal body of Americans, under the command of Gen. Greene. It was an obstinate engagement, and lasted near two hours. The British, with considerable loss, were, in the first part of the battle, routed in all quarters; but some having taken post in a piqueted garden, and others thrown themselves into a brick house, the eagerness of the American pursuit was considerably checked, and gave Col. Stuart an opportunity, on the evening of the next day, to abandon Eutaw, and march towards Charleston, taking a number of his wounded, and about one thousand stands of arms.

In the course of the same month, Gen. Arnold was sent on an expedition against New-London, in Connecticut, where he destroyed a great part of the shipping, and an immense quantity of naval stores, European manufactures, and East and West-India commodities.—The town itself was also burnt, which was said, but untruly, to have been unavoidable, on account of the explosions of great quantities of gun-powder, which happened to be in the store-houses that were set on fire.

A fort, of which it was thought necessary to gain possession in this expedition, was not taken without considerable loss. This was Fort Griswold; which was defended by the Americans with great gallantry, and the assault was made by the English with equal bravery. The British troops entered the works with fixed bayonets, and were opposed with great vigor by the Americans with long spears.

After a most obstinate defence of near forty minutes, the assailants gained possession of the fort, in which eighty-five Americans were found dead, and sixty wounded, most of them mortally; but of the killed, it is painful to observe, that the greater number fell after the British entered the fort, and when resistance had

ceased. Of the British troops, Maj. Montgomery was killed by a spear in entering the American works ; and one hundred and ninety-two men were also killed and wounded in this expedition.

Notwithstanding the advantages that Lord Cornwallis had obtained over the Americans, his situation in Virginia began by degrees to be very critical ; and the rather because he did not receive those reinforcements and supplies from Sir Henry Clinton, of which he had formed expectations, and which he had conceived to be necessary to the success of his operations.

Indeed, the commander-in-chief was prevented from sending those reinforcement to Lord Cornwallis which he otherwise might have done, by his fears respecting New-York, against which he entertained great apprehensions that Gen. Washington intended to make a formidable attack. In fact, that able American general appears to have employed great finesse, and taken much pains to lead Sir Henry Clinton to entertain this imagination. Letters, expressive of this intention, fell into the hands of Sir Henry, which were probably written with a design that they should be intercepted, and only with a view to amuse and deceive the British general. The project, if so intended, was abundantly successful ; and Gen. Washington, by a variety of judicious military manœuvres, in which he completely out-generaled the British commander, increased his apprehensions for the safety of New-York, and prevented him from sending assistance to Lord Cornwallis.

Having for a considerable time kept Gen. Clinton in alarm in New-York, though with an army much inferior to the garrison of that city, Gen. Washington suddenly quitted his camp at White Plains, crossed the Delaware, and marched towards Virginia, apparently with a design to attack Lord Cornwallis. Sir Henry Clinton, receiving information that the Count de Grasse, with a large French fleet, was expected every moment in the Chesapeake, to co-operate with General Washington, immediately endeavored, both by land and water, to communicate this intelligence to Lord Corn-

wallis ; and also sent him assurances that he would either reinforce him by every possible means in his power, or make the best diversion he could in his favor. In the mean time Lord Cornwallis had taken possession of the posts at Yorktown and Gloucester, in Virginia, where he fortified himself in the best manner he was able.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

Action between the French and English fleets in the Chesapeake.—Gen. Washington blocks up the British army at Yorktown.—Sir Henry Clinton sails to the Chesapeake with a large body of British troops.—Surrender of the British army under Lord Cornwallis.—Inveteracy of the tories.—Sir Guy Carleton arrives at New-York, and negotiations for peace are opened.—Georgia and South-Carolina evacuated by the British.—Great Britain acknowledges the independence of America.—British troops evacuate New-York.—Conclusion of the war.

ON the 28th of August, Sir Samuel Hood, with a squadron from the West Indies, joined the squadron under the command of Admiral Graves before New-York. It was then necessary, on account of the situation of Lord Cornwallis, that they should immediately proceed to the Chesapeake ; but some time appears to have been needlessly lost, though Admiral Hood was extremely anxious that no delay might be made.

They arrived, however, in the Chesapeake, on the 5th of September, with nineteen ships of the line ; where they found the Count de Grasse, who had anchored in that bay on the 30th of August, with twenty-four ships of the line. The French admiral had previously landed a large body of troops, which had been brought from Rhode-Island, and who immediately marched to join the American army under Gen. Washington.

The British and French fleets came to an action on the same day in which the former arrived in the Chesapeake. On board the British fleet ninety were killed

and two hundred and forty-six wounded : some of the ships were greatly damaged in the engagement ; and the *Terrible*, a seventy-four gun ship, was so much shattered that it was afterwards found necessary to set fire to her.

That this action had not been favorable to the English, was manifest from the event : the fleets continued in sight of each other for five days successively, and sometimes were very near ; but at length the French fleet all anchored within the Cape, so as to block up the passage. Admiral Graves, who was the commander-in-chief, then called a council of war, in which it was resolved that the fleet should proceed to New-York, that the ships might be put in the best state for the service : and thus were the French left masters of the navigation of the Chesapeake.

Before the news of this action had reached New-York, a council of war had been held there, in which it was resolved that five thousand men should be embarked on board the king's ships, in order to proceed to the assistance of Lord Cornwallis. But when it was known that the French were absolute masters of the navigation of the Chesapeake, it was thought inexpedient to send off that reinforcement immediately ; and, in another council of war, it was resolved, that as Lord Cornwallis had provisions to last him to the end of October, it was advisable to wait for more favorable accounts from Admiral Graves, or for the arrival of Admiral Digby, who was expected with three ships of the line. It was not then known, at New-York, that Admiral Graves had determined to return with the whole fleet to that port.

In the mean time, the most effectual measures were adopted by Gen. Washington for surrounding the British army under Lord Cornwallis. A large body of French troops, under the command of Lieut. Gen. the Count de Rochambeau, with a very considerable train of artillery, assisted in the enterprize. The Americans amounted to eight thousand continentals and five thousand militia. Gen. Washington was invested with

the authority of commander-in-chief of the combined forces of America and France.

On the 29th of September the investment of Yorktown was complete, and the British army quite blocked up. The day following, Sir Henry Clinton wrote a letter to Lord Cornwallis, containing assurances that he would do every thing in his power to relieve him, and giving some information concerning the steps that would be taken for that purpose. A duplicate of this letter was sent to his lordship by Maj. Cochran, a very gallant officer, who went in a vessel to the Capes, and made his way to Lord Cornwallis, through the whole French fleet, in an open boat. He reached Yorktown on the 10th of October, and soon after his arrival his head was carried off by a cannon ball.

On the return of Admiral Graves to New-York, a council of war was again held, in which it was resolved that a large body of troops should be embarked on board the fleet, as soon as the vessels were refitted; and that the exertions of both fleet and army should be made to form a junction with Lord Cornwallis. Sir Henry Clinton himself embarked, with upwards of seven thousand troops, on the 18th of October, and arrived off Cape Charles, at the entrance the Chesapeake, on the 24th, where they received intelligence that Lord Cornwallis had been obliged to capitulate five days before.

It was on the 19th of October, 1781, that Lord Cornwallis surrendered himself and his whole army, by capitulation, prisoners to the combined army under Gen. Washington. He made a defence suitable to the character he had before acquired for courage and military skill; but was compelled to submit to untoward circumstances and superior numbers.

It was agreed, by the articles of capitulation, that the British troops were to be prisoners to the United States of America, and the seamen to the French king, to whose officers also the British vessels found at Yorktown and Gloucester, were to be delivered up. The British troops amounted to upwards of seven thou-

sand ; but many of them, at the time of the surrender, were incapable of duty. A considerable number of cannon, and a large quantity of military stores, fell into the hands of the Americans on this occasion.

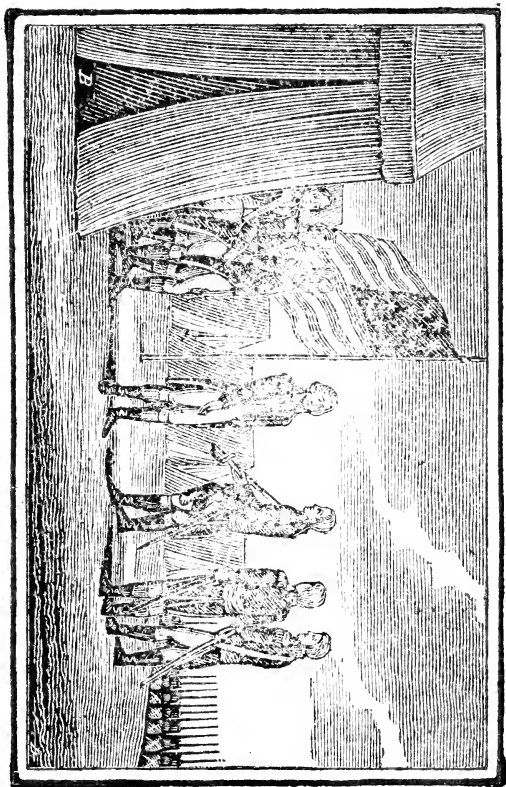
The privilege of marching out with the honors of war was refused to Lord Cornwallis, as this honor had been refused to Gen. Lincoln ; and this officer was now selected to receive the submission of the royal army at Yorktown, in the same manner his own submission had been received by the British about eighteen months before at Charleston.

As no rational expectation now remained of a subjugation of the colonies, the military operations that succeeded in America, were of little consequence. Some inconsiderable actions and skirmishes did indeed take place after that event ; in which the refugees chiefly distinguished themselves, and discovered an inveterate animosity against the Americans.

On the 5th of May, 1782, Sir Guy Carleton arrived at New-York, being appointed to the command of the British troops in America, in the room of Sir Henry Clinton. Two days after his arrival, he wrote a letter to Gen. Washington, acquainting him, that Admiral Digby was joined with himself in a commission to treat of peace with the people of America ; transmitting to him, at the same time, some papers tending to manifest the pacific disposition of the government and people of Britain towards those of America. He also desired a passport for Mr. Morgan, who was appointed to transmit a similar letter of compliment to the congress.

Gen. Washington declined signing any passport, till he had taken the opinion of congress upon that measure ; and by them he was directed to refuse any passport for such a purpose. However, another letter was sent to Gen. Washington, dated the 2d of August, signed by Sir Guy Carleton and Rear Admiral Digby, in which they informed him, that they were acquainted by authority, that negotiations for a general peace had already commenced at Paris ; that Mr. Grenville was invested with full powers to treat with all the parties

SURRENDER OF LORD CORNWALLIS, AT YORKTOWN—OCT. 19, 1781.



at war ; and was then at Paris in the execution of his commission.

They further informed him, that his Britannic majesty, in order to remove all obstacles to that peace which he so ardently wished to restore, had commanded his ministers to direct Mr. Grenville, that the independence of the thirteen provinces should be proposed by him, in the first instance, instead of making it the condition of a general treaty.

But some jealousies were entertained by the Americans, that it was the design of the British court, either to disunite them, or bring them to treat of a peace separately from their ally, the king of France. It was therefore resolved, that any man, or body of men, in America, who should presume to make any separate or partial convention or agreement with the king of Great Britain, or with any commissioner or commissioners under the crown of Great Britain, ought to be considered and treated as open and avowed enemies of the United States of America ; and also that the United States could not with propriety hold any conference or treaty with Great Britain, unless that government should, as a preliminary thereto, either withdraw their fleets and armies, or else, in positive and express terms, acknowledge the independence of the said states. It was likewise resolved, that any propositions which might be made by the court of Great Britain, in any manner tending to violate the treaty subsisting between the United States and the king of France, ought to be treated with every mark of indignity and contempt.

In the month of June, the town of Savannah, and the whole province of Georgia, were evacuated by the British troops ; as was also Charleston, in South-Carolina, about the close of the year.

In the mean time, the negotiations being continued, provisional articles of peace were signed at Paris, on the 30th of November, by the commissioner of his Britannic majesty and the American commissioners, in which his majesty acknowledged the united provinces of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island



and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to be **"Free, sovereign, and independent states."**

They had declared themselves to be such on the 4th of July, 1776; they had been acknowledged as such by the king of France, on the 30th of January, 1778, when he concluded with them a treaty of amity and commerce; Holland had acknowledged them as such, April 19th, 1782; Sweden acknowledged them as such, February 5th, 1783; Denmark, the 25th of February, Spain in March, and Russia in July, of the same year.

The definitive treaty was signed on the 3d of September, 1783; and on the 25th of November following, the British troops evacuated the city of New-York, which was immediately entered by the Americans, in a joyful and well conducted procession, headed by Gen. Washington and Gov. Clinton.

Soon after this event, the soldiers of the American army, cheerfully resuming the character of citizens, returned peaceably to their respective homes; while their beloved and ever honored commander, having taken a pathetic leave of his officers, repaired to Annapolis; and on the 23d of December, at an audience with congress, (perhaps the most singular and interesting that ever occurred,) resigned his commission into the hands of the president of that honorable body, amid the acclamations of his grateful and admiring countrymen.

According to the report of the committee appointed for that purpose, the foreign debt of the United States incurred by the war, amounted to \$7,885,085, and the domestic debt to \$35,115,290, equal to 9,450,084*l*. sterling. But the cost to Great Britain is moderately estimated at 115,645,914*l*. As to the loss of men during this war, the United States, according to authentic estimates, lost by the sword and in prison, near eighty thousand men; and by the British returns at New-York, the number of soldiers killed in the service, amounted to forty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-three.



## APPENDIX.

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### GENERAL ORDER,

ISSUED BY GEN. WASHINGTON, ON THE CESSATION  
OF HOSTILITIES.

Head-Quarters, Newburgh, April 18, 1783.

**T**HE commander-in-chief orders the cessation of hostilities between the United States of America and the king of Great Britain, to be publicly proclaimed to-morrow at 12 o'clock, at the new building ; and that the proclamation which will be communicated herewith, be read to-morrow evening, at the head of every regiment and corps of the army ; after which, the chaplains, with the several brigades, will render thanks to Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his over-ruling the wrath of man to his own glory, and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations.

Although the proclamation before alluded to, extends only to the prohibition of hostilities, and not to the annunciation of a general peace, yet it must afford the most rational and sincere satisfaction to every benevolent mind, as it puts a period to a long and doubtful contest—stops the effusion of human blood—opens the prospect to a more splendid scene—and, like another morning star, promises the approach of a brighter day than has hitherto illuminated this western hemisphere ! On such a happy day—a day which is the harbinger of peace—a day which completes the eighth year of the war, it would be ingratitude not to rejoice : it would be insensibility not to participate in the general felicity.

The commander-in-chief, far from endeavoring to stifle the feelings of joy in his own bosom, offers his

most cordial congratulations on the occasion, to all the officers of every denomination—to all the troops of the United States in general, and in particular to those gallant and persevering men, who had resolved to defend the rights of their invaded country so long as the war should continue ; for these are the men who ought to be considered as the pride and boast of the American army, and who, crowned with well earned laurels, may soon withdraw from the field of glory to the more tranquil walks of civil life.

While the general recollects the almost infinite variety of scenes through which we have passed, with a mixture of pleasure, astonishment, and gratitude—while he contemplates the prospects before us with rapture—he cannot help wishing that all the brave men, of whatever condition they may be, who have shared in the toils and dangers of effecting this glorious revolution, of rescuing millions from the hand of oppression, and of laying the foundation of a great empire, might be impressed with a proper idea of the dignified part they have been called to act (under the smiles of Providence) on the stage of human affairs ; for happy, thrice happy, shall they be pronounced hereafter, who have contributed any thing, who have performed the meanest office in erecting this stupendous *fabric of Freedom and Empire*, on the broad basis of independence ; who have assisted in protecting the rights of human nature, and establishing an asylum for the poor and oppressed of all nations and religions.

The glorious task for which we first flew to arms, being thus accomplished—the liberties of our country being fully acknowledged and firmly secured, by the smiles of Heaven on the purity of our cause, and the honest exertions of a feeble people, determined to be free, against a powerful nation disposed to oppress them ; and the character of those who have persevered through every extremity of hardship, suffering, and danger, being immortalized by the illustrious appellation of the *Patriot Army*, nothing now remains but for the actors of this mighty scene to preserve a perfect,

anvarying consistency of character through the very last act ; to close the drama with applause ; and to retire from the military theatre with the same approbation of angels and men, which have crowned all their former virtuous actions.

For this purpose, no disorder or licentiousness must be tolerated ; every considerate and well disposed soldier must remember, it will be absolutely necessary to wait with patience, until peace shall be declared, or congress shall be enabled to take proper measures for the security of the public stores, &c. As soon as these arrangements shall be made, the general is confident there will be no delay in discharging, with every mark of distinction and honor, all the men enlisted for the war, who will then have faithfully performed their engagements with the public. The general has already interested himself in their behalf ; and he thinks he need not repeat the assurances of his disposition to be useful to them on the present, and every other proper occasion. In the mean time he is determined that no military neglects or excesses shall go unpunished, while he retains the command of the army.

The adjutant-general will have such working parties detached to assist in making the preparation for a general rejoicing, as the chief engineer, with the army, shall call for ; and the quarter-master-general will also furnish such materials as he may want. The quarter-master-general will, without delay, procure such a number of discharges to be printed as will be sufficient for all the men enlisted for the war ; he will please to apply to head-quarters for the form.

An extra ration of liquor to be issued to every man to-morrow, to drink PERPETUAL PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, AND HAPPINESS, TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## ADDRESS OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES,  
IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

Princeton, August 26, 1783.

*According to order, Gen. Washington attended, and being introduced by two members, the President addressed him as follows:—*

SIR,

CONGRESS feel particular pleasure in seeing your excellency, and in congratulating you on the success of a war, in which you have acted so conspicuous a part.

It has been the singular happiness of the United States, that during a war so long, so dangerous, and so important, Providence has been graciously pleased to preserve the life of a general, who has merited and possessed the uninterrupted confidence and affection of his fellow citizens. In other nations many have performed services, for which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public; but to you, sir, peculiar praise is due. Your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country. They deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation.—Those acknowledgments, congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your excellency.

Hostilities have now ceased, but your country still needs your services. She wishes to avail herself of your talents in forming the arrangements which will be necessary for her in the time of peace. For this reason your attendance at congress has been requested.—A committee is appointed to confer with your excellency, and to receive your assistance in preparing and digesting plans relative to those important objects.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON'S ANSWER.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I AM too sensible of the honorable reception I have now experienced, not to be penetrated with the deepest feelings of gratitude.

Notwithstanding congress appear to estimate the value of my life beyond any services I have been able to render the United States, yet I must be permitted to consider the wisdom and unanimity of our national councils, the firmness of our citizens, and the patience and bravery of our troops, which have produced so happy a termination of the war, as the most conspicuous effect of the divine interposition, and the surest presage of our future happiness.

Highly gratified by the favorable sentiments which congress are pleased to express of my past conduct, and amply rewarded by the confidence and affection of my fellow citizens, I cannot hesitate to contribute my best endeavors towards the establishment of the national security, in whatever manner the sovereign power may think proper to direct, until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace, or the final evacuation of our country by the British forces ; after either of which events, I shall ask permission to retire to the peaceful shade of private life.

Perhaps, sir, no occasion may offer more suitable than the present, to express my humble thanks to God and my grateful acknowledgments to my country, for the great and uniform support I have received in every vicissitude of fortune, and for the many distinguished honors which congress have been pleased to confer upon me in the course of the war.

## FAREWELL ORDERS

OF GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE ARMIES OF  
THE UNITED STATES.

Rocky-Hill, near Princeton, Nov. 2, 1783.

THE United States in congress assembled, after giving the most honorable testimony to the merits of the federal armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their country, for their long, eminent, and faithful service, having thought proper, by their proclamation bearing date the 18th of October last, to discharge such part of the troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the officers on furlough to retire from service, from and after to-morrow, which proclamation having been communicated in the public papers, for the information and government of all concerned, it only remains for the commander-in-chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States, (however widely dispersed individuals who compose them may be,) and to bid them an affectionate—a long farewell.

But before the commander-in-chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight view of the past : he will then take the liberty of exploring, with his military friends, their future prospects ; of advising the general line of conduct which in his opinion ought to be pursued ; and he will then conclude the address, by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them, in the performance of an arduous office.

A contemplation of the complete attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object for which we contended, against so formidable a power, cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The signal interpositions of Providence,



in our feeble condition, were such as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving ; while the unparalleled perseverance of the armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement, for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning, nor within the compass of this address, to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses which in several instances have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigors of an inclement season : nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs.

Every American officer and soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstance which may have occurred, by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness ; events which have seldom if ever before taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined army formed at once from such raw materials ? Who that was not a witness could imagine that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that men who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed by the habits of education to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers ? Or who that was not on the spot, can trace the steps by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils ?

It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceed the power of description : and shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained ? In such a republic, who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the

fruits of their labors? In such a country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of commerce, and the cultivation of the soil, will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy soldiers who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment; and the extensive and fertile regions of the west, will yield a most happy asylum to those who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive that any one of the United States will prefer a national bankruptcy, and the dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisitions of congress, and the payment of its just debts; so that the officers and soldiers may expect considerable assistance, in re-commencing their civil occupations, from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose, and remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the states, it is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that with strong attachment to the union, they should carry with them into civil society, the most conciliating dispositions, and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens, than they have been victorious as soldiers. What though there should be some envious individuals, who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit, yet, let such unworthy treatment produce no invective, or any instance of intemperate conduct. Let it be remembered, that the unbiassed voice of the free citizens of the United States, has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause. Let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the federal armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let a consciousness of their achievements and fame, still excite the men who composed them to honorable actions, under the persuasion that the private virtues of economy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities

of valor, perseverance, and enterprize, were in the field.

Every one may rest assured that much, very much of the future happiness of the officers and men, will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And although the general has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that unless the principles of the federal government were properly supported, and the powers of the union increased, the honor, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost for ever; yet he cannot help repeating on this occasion so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every officer, and every soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavors to those of his worthy fellow citizens, towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

The commander-in-chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldier to change the military character into that of the citizen, but that steady, decent tenor of behavior, which has generally distinguished not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and armies through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences; and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under for the assistance he has received from every class, and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner, to the general officers, as well for their counsels on many interesting occasions, as for their ardor in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted. To the commandants of regiments and corps, and to the other officers, for their zeal and attention in carrying his orders promptly into execution—to the staff for their

alacrity and exactness in performing the duties of their several departments ; and to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, for their extraordinary patience and suffering, as well as their invincible fortitude in action. To the various branches of the army, the general takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power, that he was really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself, however, they will do him the justice to believe that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him, has been done.

And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave in a short time of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honor to command, he can only again offer in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those, who under the divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others. With these wishes, and this benediction, the commander-in-chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed for ever.



### THE ANSWER.

WE the officers of the part of the army remaining on the banks of the Hudson, have received your excellency's serious and farewell address to the armies of the United States. We beg you to accept our unfeigned thanks for the communication, and your affectionate assurances of inviolable attachment and friendship. If your attempts to insure to the armies the just, the promised rewards, of their long, severe, and dangerous services, have failed of success, we believe it has arisen from causes not in your excellency's power to con-

trol. With extreme regret do we reflect on the occasion which called for such endeavors. But while we thank your excellency for these exertions in favor of the troops you have so successfully commanded, we pray it may be believed, that in this sentiment our own particular interests have but a secondary place ; and that even the ultimate ingratitude of the people (were that possible) could not shake the patriotism of those who suffer by it. Still with pleasing wonder, and with grateful joy, shall we contemplate the glorious conclusion of our labors. To that merit in the revolution, which, under the auspices of Heaven, the armies have displayed, posterity will do justice ; and the sons will blush, whose fathers were their foes.

Most gladly would we cast a veil on every act which sullies the reputation of our country—never should the page of history be stained with its dishonor—even from our memories should the idea be erased. We lament the opposition to those salutary measures which the wisdom of the union has planned ; measures which alone can recover and fix on a permanent basis the credit of the states ; measures which are essential to the justice, the honor, and interest of the nation.—While she was giving the noblest proofs of magnanimity, with conscious pride we saw her growing fame ; and, regardless of present sufferings, we looked forward to the end of our toils and dangers, to brighter scenes in prospect. There we beheld the genius of our country dignified by sovereignty and independence, supported by justice, and adorned with every liberal virtue. There we saw patient husbandry fearless extend her cultured fields, and animated commerce spread her sails to every wind. There we beheld fair science lift her head, with all the arts attending in her train. There, blest with freedom, we saw the human mind expand ; and, throwing aside the restraints which confined it to the narrow bounds of country, it embraced the world. Such were our fond hopes, and with such delightful prospects did they present us. Nor are we disappointed. Those animating prospects are

now changed and changing to realities ; and actively to have contributed to their production, is our pride, our glory. But justice alone can give them stability. In that justice we still believe. Still we hope, that the prejudices of the misinformed will be removed, and the arts of false and selfish popularity, addressed to the feelings of avarice, defeated : or, in the worst event, the world, we hope, will make the just distinction : we trust the disingenuousness of a few will not sully the reputation, the honor, and dignity, of the great and respectable majority of the states.

We are happy in the opportunity just presented of congratulating your excellency on the certain conclusion of the definitive treaty of peace. Relieved at length from long suspense, our warmest wish is to return to the bosom of our country, to resume the character of citizens ; and it will be our highest ambition to become useful ones. To your excellency, this great event must be peculiarly pleasing : for while at the head of her armies, urged by patriot virtues and magnanimity, you persevered, under the pressure of every possible difficulty and discouragement, in the pursuit of the great objects of the war—the freedom and safety of your country ; your heart panted for the tranquil enjoyments of peace. We cordially rejoice with you, that the period of indulging them has arrived so soon. In contemplating the blessings of liberty and independence, the rich prize of eight years hardy adventure, past sufferings will be forgotten ; or, if remembered, the recollection will serve to heighten the relish of present happiness. We sincerely pray God that this happiness may long be yours ; and that when you quit the stage of human life, you may receive from the unerring Judge, the rewards of valor exerted to save the oppressed, of patriotism, and disinterested virtue.

## ADDRESS

OF GENERAL WASHINGTON TO CONGRESS, ON  
RESIGNING HIS MILITARY COMMISSION.

December 23, 1783.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE great events on which my resignation depended having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to congress, and of presenting myself before them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States, of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence—a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task; which, however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me, sir, to recommend in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of congress.

I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last act of my official life by recommending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God.

and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take leave of all the employments of public life.



### THE ANSWER.

SIR,

THE United States, in congress assembled, receive, with emotions too affecting for utterance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success through a perilous and a doubtful war. Called upon by your country to defend its invaded rights, you accepted the sacred charge, before it had formed alliances, and while it was without funds or a government to support you. You have conducted the great military contest with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power through all disasters and changes. You have, by the love and confidence of your fellow citizens, enabled them to display their martial genius, and transmit their fame to posterity. You have persevered, till these United States, aided by a magnanimous king and nation, have been enabled, under a just Providence, to close the war in freedom, safety, and independence; on which happy event we sincerely join you in congratulations.

Having defended the standard of liberty in this new world: having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict and to those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action, with the blessings of your fellow citizens—but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command; it will continue to animate remotest ages.

We feel with you our obligations to the army in general, and will particularly charge ourselves with the



interests of those confidential officers, who have attended your person to this affecting moment.

We join you in commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens, to improve the opportunity afforded them, of becoming a happy and respectable nation. And for you we address to him our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved, may be fostered with all his care: that your days may be happy as they have been illustrious; and that he will finally give you that reward which this world cannot give.



## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

### ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. The house of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among

the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of three years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct.—The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New-Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New-Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North-Carolina five, South-Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

SEC. 3. The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

No person shall be a senator, who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The vice-president of the United States shall be president of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The senate shall choose their other officers, and also a president *pro tempore*, in the absence of the vice-president, or when he shall exercise the office of president of the United States.

The senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the president of the United States is tried, the chief justice shall preside: and no person shall be convicted, without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit, under the United States; but the party convicted shall, nevertheless, be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

SEC. 4. The times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state, by the legislature thereof; but the congress may, at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

The congress shall assemble at least once in every year; and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

SEC. 5. Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications, of its own members; and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as each house may provide.

Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may, in their judgment, require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question, shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

SEC. 6. The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest, during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to or returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased, during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house, during his continuance in office.

SEC. 7. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the president of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to re-consider it. If after such re-consideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections to the other house, by which it shall likewise be re-considered, and if approved by two thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the president within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the congress, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of the senate and house of representatives may be necessary, (except on a question of adjournment,) shall be presented to the president of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be re-passed by two thirds of the senate and house of representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

SEC. 8. The congress shall have power—

To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises; to pay the debts, and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States:

To borrow money on the credit of the United States:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes:

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies, throughout the United States:

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures:

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States:

To establish post-offices and post-roads:

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing, for limited times, to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries:

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court: To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations:

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water :

To raise and support armies ; but no appropriations of money to that use, shall be for a longer term than two years :

To provide and maintain a navy :

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces :

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions :

To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states, respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia, according to the discipline prescribed by congress :

To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, and other needful buildings :—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper, for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

SEC. 9. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states, now existing, shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the congress, prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight ; but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder, or ex post facto law, shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state. No preference shall be given, by any regulation of commerce or revenue, to the ports of one state over those of another ; nor shall vessels bound to or from one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law ; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money, shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States ; and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall,

without the consent of the congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

SEC. 10. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts; or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of the congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the congress. No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops or ships of war, in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

## ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice-president, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the congress; but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for president; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said house shall in like manner choose the president. But in choosing the president, the votes shall be taken by

states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of a president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice-president. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall choose from them by ballot the vice-president.

The congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall be eligible to the office of president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office, who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president, and the congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the president and vice-president, declaring what officer shall then act as president, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a president shall be elected.

The president shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

**SEC. 2.** The president shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all

other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law. But the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper, in the president alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The president shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

SEC. 3. He shall from time to time give the congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper: he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

SEC. 4. The president, vice-president, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

### ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

SEC. 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states, between a state and citizens of another state, between citizens of different states, between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be a party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations, as the congress shall make.



The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

**SEC. 3.** Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason; but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

#### ARTICLE IV.

**SEC. 1.** Full faith and credit shall be given, in each state, to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings, of every other state. And the congress may, by general laws, prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings, shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

**SEC. 2.** The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall, on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor, in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor; but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

**SEC. 3.** New states may be admitted by the congress into this union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state, nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned, as well as of the congress.

The congress shall have power to dispose of, and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

**SEC. 4.** The United States shall guaranty to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and, on application of the legislature, or of the executive, (when the legislature cannot be convened,) against domestic violence.

## ARTICLE V.

The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress: Provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

## ARTICLE VI.

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this constitution, as under the confederation.

This constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

## ARTICLE VII.

The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

Done in Convention, by the unanimous consent of the states present, the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names,

GEORGE WASHINGTON,  
*President, and Deputy from Virginia.*

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.  
John Langdon,  
Nicholas Gilman.

MASSACHUSETTS.  
Nathaniel Gorham,  
Rufus King.

## CONNECTICUT.

William Sam'l Johnson,  
Roger Sherman.

## NEW-YORK.

Alexander Hamilton.

## NEW-JERSEY.

William Livingston,  
David Brearly,  
William Patterson,  
Jonathan Dayton.

## PENNSYLVANIA.

Benjamin Franklin,  
Thomas Mifflin,  
Robert Morris,  
George Clymer,  
Thomas Fitzsimons,  
Jared Ingersoll,  
James Wilson,  
Gouverneur Morris.

## DELAWARE.

George Read,  
Gunning Bedford, Jun.

*Attest.*

John Dickinson,  
Richard Bassett,  
Jacob Broom.

## MARYLAND.

James M'Henry,  
Daniel of St. Tho. Jenifer,  
Daniel Carroll.

## VIRGINIA.

John Blair,  
James Madison, Jun.

## NORTH-CAROLINA.

William Blount,  
Richard Dobbs Spaight,  
Hugh Williamson.

## SOUTH-CAROLINA.

John Rutledge,  
Charles C. Pinckney,  
Pierce Butler.

## GEORGIA.

William Few,  
Abraham Baldwin.

WILLIAM JACKSON, *Secretary.*

# AMENDMENTS

## TO THE

### Constitution of the United States.

Since the adoption of the foregoing constitution, the following amendments have been made, and ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states in the union :

#### ARTICLE I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

#### ARTICLE II.

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

#### ARTICLE III.

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

#### ARTICLE V.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject, for the same offence, to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled, in any criminal case, to be witness against himself; nor be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

## ARTICLE VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

## ARTICLE VII.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact, tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

## ARTICLE VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## ARTICLE IX.

The enumeration, in the constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## ARTICLE X.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

## ARTICLE XI.

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States, by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

## ARTICLE XII.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for president and vice-president, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as president, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as vice-president; and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as president, and of all persons voted for as vice-president, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate; the president

of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted: the person having the greatest number of votes for president, shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as president, the house of representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the president. But in choosing the president, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote: a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the house of representatives shall not choose a president, whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the vice-president shall act as president, as in the case of the death, or other constitutional disability, of the president.

The person having the greatest number of votes as vice-president, shall be the vice-president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the senate shall choose the vice-president: a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice.

But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of president, shall be eligible to that of vice-president of the United States.

### ARTICLE XIII.

If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive, or retain any title of nobility or honor, or shall, without the consent of congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office, or emolument of any kind whatever, from any emperor, king, prince, or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding **any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them.**

FINIS.













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